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VOLUME LXVI, NUMBER 19879

SUNDAY, MARCH 15, 1998 • ADAR 17, 5758 • 16 ZIL-KI'ADA 1418

NIS 4.50 (EILAT NIS 3.85)



14
Sunday comics



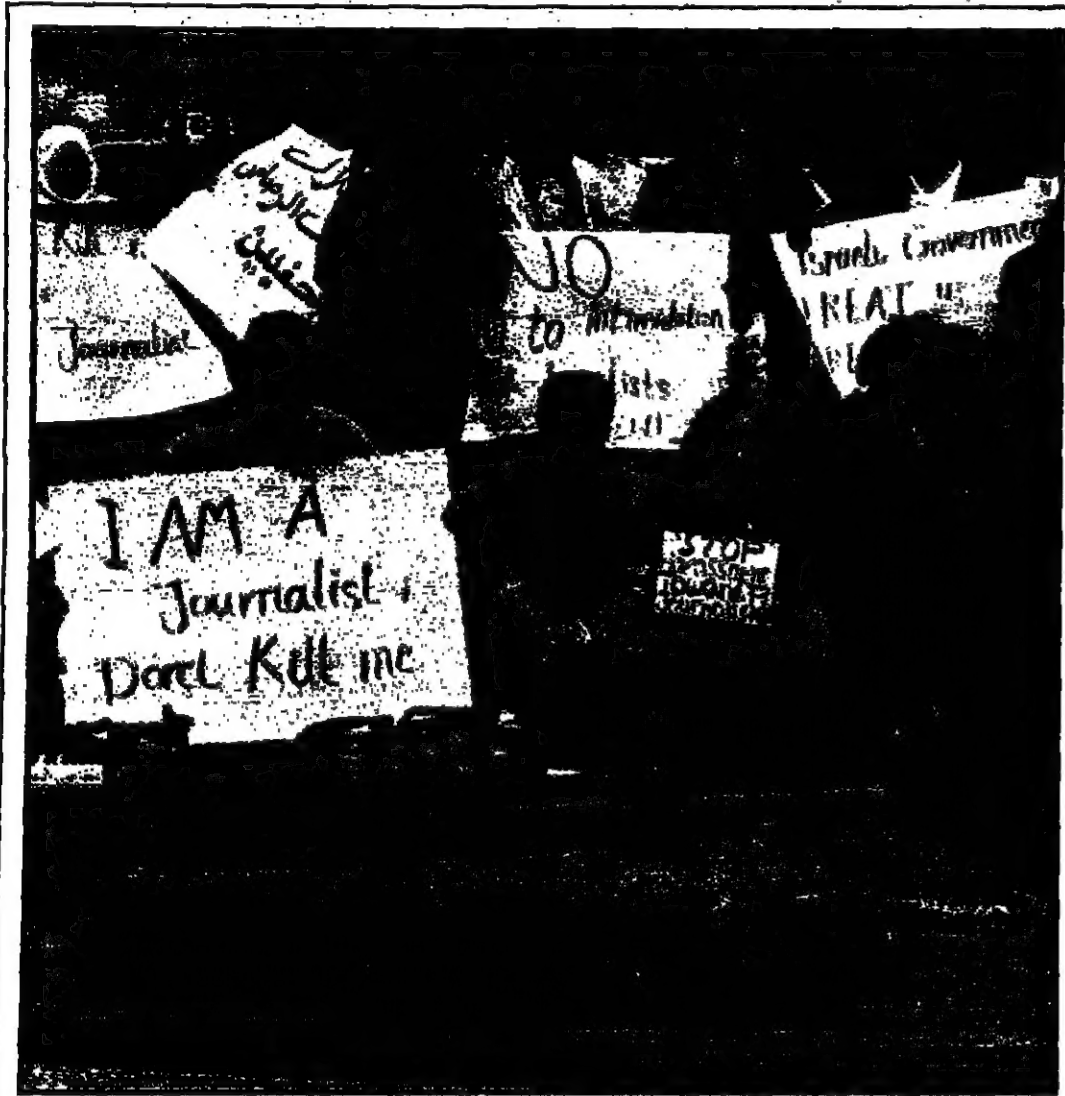
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Palestinian journalists demonstrate in a Hebron street yesterday, after placing their cameras on stretchers to protest the shooting of eight colleagues Friday by IDF troops. (Reuters)

IDF: Wounded journalists mingled with stonethrowers

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and MOHAMMED NAJIB

IDF troops who wounded Palestinian press photographers during riots in Hebron on Friday night were "unable to distinguish the reporters from the rioting mob," Hebron commander Col. Yigal Sharon said last night.

Sharon told a press conference outside Machpela Cave that the troops acted with restraint and fired rubber bullets only while dispersing Palestinian rioters. The journalists were hit "as they were not standing on the side, but mingled with the rioting crowd," he said.

Foreign Press Association spokesman Conny Mus rejected the army's explanation and said the true facts are available in video material of the incident. "According to our findings, our respected colleagues were

shot at deliberately," said Mus. "One of our colleagues was shot at least three times while he was laying wounded on the ground."

In a protest against the incident, Palestinian journalists carried cameras on stretchers to the Hebron Municipality yesterday afternoon and alleged that IDF

Clashes between IDF troops and Palestinians continued in the West Bank on Friday and yesterday in protest of the Tarkumiya incident, in which three Palestinian journalists were slain by troops at a roadblock last Tuesday night. The weekend's casualties included two IDF officers, three soldiers, two border policemen, three Palestinian policemen, and at least 20 Palestinians — including eight journalists.

Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat called on the international community to intervene to prevent further violence from erupting. Palestinian security officials warned that if the IDF continued to fire rubber bullets at rioters and injured Palestinian security officials they doubt if they would be able to control the rioters.

The journalists demanded that the Israeli government and international community intervene to prevent attacks against the Palestinian press from recurring.

PA: Try Tarkumiya soldiers, Page 2

troops "repeatedly and deliberately" shot "at Palestinian and other journalists and cameramen."

The journalists demanded that the Israeli government and international community intervene to prevent attacks against the Palestinian press from recurring.

See JOURNALISTS, Page 2

Sharon offers staged Lebanon withdrawal

Syria said willing to discuss PM's 425-based offer

By DAVID RUDGE

National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon plans to submit his own proposal for solving the Lebanon problem via a unilateral, gradual IDF withdrawal.

Sharon, who announced his intention during a Channel 2 interview Friday night, declined to go into details prior to presenting the plan to the cabinet later this week.

He stressed, however, that a key element would be a warning that any attacks launched from Lebanon into Israeli territory following a withdrawal would be met with severe retaliation.

Meanwhile, Lebanese leaders met yesterday with Syrian President Hafez Assad and senior officials in Damascus to forge a united stance in response to Israel's proposed withdrawal from southern Lebanon under UN Security Council Resolution 425.

The entire Lebanese government hierarchy — President Elias Hrawi, Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, Foreign Minister Fares Bouez, and Lebanese Parliament Speaker Nabih Berri — was summoned to Damascus for the meeting.

Diplomatic sources in Paris reportedly said Damascus is willing to explore Israel's Lebanon-first ideas, provided the Netanyahu government resumes negotiations with Syria from the point where Labor government stopped them.

"We are prepared to implement a pullout in stages while monitoring any results that might ensue," said Sharon, adding that Israel would make it clear in advance that it

would hold Lebanon responsible for any future cross-border attacks. "We would put different rules before [the Lebanese government] under which the IDF would be able to give answers to [ensure] the security of the northern region. We would also warn beforehand against any harm of any kind befalling the South Lebanese Army and residents of south Lebanon."

A senior aide to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu rejected the notion that the IDF pullout might be linked to a resumption of Israeli-Syrian negotiations from the point where they left off two years ago. "One thing has nothing to do with the other," he said. "Our position is that we can start negotia-

tions without any preconditions. We always have been willing to do so and still are willing to do so."

Assad is concerned that Israel's initiative is aimed at splitting the Syria-Lebanon axis and that he would lose his best bargaining chip in negotiations over the Golan Heights. An Israeli withdrawal from the South would also bring international pressure on Syria to follow suit and remove its own forces from Lebanon, a move which would considerably weaken Assad's control.

The Damascus summit took place amid reports that Israel is seeking US support for its 425 initiative, as well as the backing of the UN and the French. According to

Channel 2, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai met with US Ambassador Edward Walker at the Defense Ministry offices in Tel Aviv on Friday.

The report said Mordechai informed Walker of his intention to visit the US at the end of the month in an effort to persuade the US administration to give its full backing to the Israeli initiative. He also reportedly asked Walker to relay a message to Damascus that Israel has no intention of bypassing Syria and that an agreed IDF withdrawal from south Lebanon would further future negotiations with the Syrians.

See SHARON, Page 2

Possible signs of strategic change

ANALYSIS

By YOSSI OLMERT

ment cannot accept Syria's demand that negotiations start at the point where they last broke off, when the Syrians reiterated to the previous government Syria's long-standing demand for a return to the June 4, 1967 borders.

However, this gap could leave sufficient space for maneuvering as both countries do agree on the need for a withdrawal from Lebanon and a formal agreement concerning the future of the

Golan. Should it accept the Syrian formula, the Netanyahu government would be faced with a domestic dilemma, considering its previous pronouncements on this front. In the international arena, however, such a move is likely to earn Jerusalem a few kudos.

Like in previous situations of this sort, however, the domestic concerns are likely to prevail. The government is still a long way from acquiescing to even a somewhat softened Syrian stance. Like the one which reportedly emerged this weekend.

The writer is an expert on Syria.

Man in Afula loses hands lifting bomb package

By DAVID RUDGE

Police are beefing up security in the main cities with roadblocks and checks at bus stations and hitchhiking posts following bombings in Afula yesterday and Jerusalem on Friday.

Eliyahu Baliliti, 53, of Afula, lost both hands yesterday afternoon when he picked up a suspicious-looking parcel and it blew up in a park near the town's central bus station.

Baliliti, who also suffered facial

injuries, was rushed to the town's Emeq Hospital. He was in critical but stable condition after undergoing surgery last night.

Police assume Damascus Gate bomb was terror act, Page 2

"We received a call that there had been an apparent terrorist bombing and because of this we sent a lot of

ambulances, especially because the original announcement said it had occurred near the central bus station," said Eli Bin, head of MDA's Afula station.

"We found a man lying by the side of the road with his hands blown off. He also had facial injuries and wounds caused by shrapnel to various parts of his body."

Witnesses said Baliliti told them he had spotted the suspicious parcel and had tried to open it when it suddenly exploded.

Northern region police chief

Cmdr. Alik Ron said there is no reason to believe that the bombing was criminally motivated. It appears more likely to be a terror attack, he said, especially in light of the recent disturbances in the territories.

Police sealed off the area of the explosion and roadblocks were set up in the vicinity in the hope of capturing the bomb planters. Sappers combed the area for any other devices that may have been planted, but none was found.

See AFULA, Page 2

A Kennedy quits politics

By JEAN MCILLAN

BOSTON (AP) — Congressman Joseph P. Kennedy II on Friday became the first member of the Kennedy dynasty to quit politics, saying his brother's death in a skiing accident forced him to reevaluate his life.

With his career in a slump since last summer because of family scandals, the 45-year-old, six-term congressman said Friday he will not run for reelection next fall to the House seat once held by his uncle John F. Kennedy.

Instead, he said, he will spend more time with his family and go back to running Citizens Energy Corp., the nonprofit agency he founded nearly two decades ago to provide heating assistance to the poor.

Kennedy had turned the business over to his brother Michael, but took back control after Michael was killed at a Colorado ski resort on New Year's Eve.

"Because of the death of my brother Michael, I have a new



Joseph Kennedy II (AP)

responsibility at Citizens Energy," Kennedy said. "This last year has brought me new recognition of our own individual vulnerabilities and the vagaries of life."

While Kennedy did not rule out running again for office, his decision marks a decline in power for America's most illustrious political family and leaves just two members to wield influence in Washington: his 66-year-old uncle, Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, and his cousin Rep. Patrick Kennedy.

Kennedy, the eldest son of the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, made the announcement at Citizens Energy, which he founded in 1979 in a Beacon Hill apartment where John F. Kennedy lived while he was an unmarried congressman.

Up until last summer, Kennedy was considered the odds-on favorite to win the race for governor this fall. But after several months of family trouble and bad publicity, he announced last August that he would not run.

Trouble began when his ex-wife, Sheila Rauch Kennedy, published a book accusing him of trying to bully her into granting him an annulment. Then Michael was investigated for allegedly having sex with his family's teenage baby sister.

Soon after that scandal broke, one of Joe Kennedy's twin 17-year-old sons was burned as he and his father played with fireworks at the family compound in Hyannis Port, Massachusetts. Fireworks are illegal in Massachusetts.

Not long after that, his cousin John F. Kennedy Jr. said in his magazine *George* that Joe and Michael Kennedy had become "poster boys for bad behavior."

Kennedy, a member of the House Banking and Financial Services Committee, cited in his resignation his work on such issues as health care, affordable housing, Social Security, Medicare and educational opportunity.

"I've tried to represent the conscience of my district," he said.

"People who say they're going to stay in Congress for the rest of their life are making a mistake," he said. "You should reevaluate. You should reevaluate where you're at."

By PETER BAKER

WASHINGTON (The Washington Post) — Much of the once-secret evidence in the Paula Jones lawsuit exploded into public view Friday as her lawyers filed hundreds of pages of documents that collectively accuse US President Bill Clinton of a pattern of sexual indiscretions and an elaborate campaign to cover them up.

Clinton declined to discuss the matter and retreated from scandal-riveted Washington for a weekend at Camp David, publicly hugging Hillary Rodham Clinton as they crossed the South Lawn toward the Marine One helicopter.

The massive filing in US District Court in Little Rock, Arkansas, detailed in graphic terms the womanizing allegations that have trailed Clinton for years, and included a transcript of most of Clinton's own sworn deposition made to Jones' lawyers in January.

It also included testimony made under oath by four women who said they had sexual encounters with the president, and testimony by Clinton's former bodyguards in Arkansas that he used them to solicit women.

In addition to Jones, who has charged that Clinton hired her to a hotel suite and asked for oral sex, the documents include a sworn

statement by Jennifer Flowers and a deposition to Jones' lawyers by high-school friend Dolly Kyle Browning, both of whom describe years-long love affairs with Clinton.

Former White House aide Kathleen Willey asserted in graphic detail, in response to deposition questions, that the president groped her behind the closed door of the Oval Office.

In his deposition, Clinton denied any sexual contact with Jones, Browning, Willey and others, and said he had had one sexual encounter with Flowers, in 1977.

The public release of 700 pages of papers connected to the Jones case — including Clinton's own testimony — marked a once-unthinkable moment in the history of the presidency.

While other commanders-in-chief have been accused of licentious behavior, never before has one had allegations about his extramarital life exposed to such a public discussion in such intimate detail, let alone in a court of law.

The documents were released in support of Jones' rebuttal to a motion made last month by Clinton's attorneys, who had asserted Jones could not prove her case and asked the judge to throw it out before a scheduled May 27 trial.

The Jones suit, originally filed in

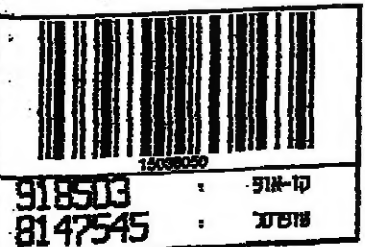
1994, charges that her civil rights were violated and her career in state government stunted after she refused Clinton's 1991 advances.

In charging that Clinton and his legal team have tried to obstruct the progress of her case, Jones' argument seemed to underscore the convergence of her civil lawsuit with independent counsel Kenneth W. Starr's criminal investigation of the president.

The president's defense attorney hotly disputed the Jones allegation of obstruction Friday, charging that her lawyers released the salacious exhibits because the legal core of their suit is so weak.

Perhaps the most sensational allegation detailed in Friday's documents was the account of Willey, who has never spoken publicly about an alleged 1993 incident first revealed last summer.

Hungarian National Day
Today, March 15
Hungarian National Day
150th anniversary of
Hungarian Revolution
and War of
Independence
Congratulations
to Hungary!



NEWS

in brief

Man attacks worshipers at Kotel

A Mea She'arim resident sprayed worshipers at the Kotel with tear gas last night. Four people were lightly injured but did not require medical care. The man, in his forties, told police that he had been drunk at the time. *Trim*

Man remanded for attacking Kahalani's son

Miguel Molino, 20, of Ramat Gan, was remanded Friday until today by the Petah Tikva Magistrate's Court for allegedly attacking Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani's son Yotam, 20, with an ax at a Purim party. Kahalani was lightly wounded and taken to Kaplan Hospital in Rehovot for treatment. Another hearing is scheduled for today, when police are expected to ask that Molino be remanded until the end of legal proceedings. *Trim*

Arab contractor cut off for working on Shabbat

Labor and Social Affairs Minister Eli Yishai last night ordered the Shikma home for the retarded in Ra'anana to stop engaging an Arab contractor, who was working on Shabbat at the home. Yishai also ordered ministry staffers to review all contracts, with the aim of reminding all contractors that working on Shabbat in facilities run by the Labor and Social Affairs Ministry is forbidden. Israel Radio quoted Yossi Sarid as saying the contractor, together with three Arab workers, were working to finish the center before the dedication ceremony. *Jerusalem Post Staff*

Cabinet to confirm Halevy appointment today

The cabinet is expected to confirm Ephraim Halevy's appointment as Mossad head at its weekly meeting today. Halevy, who has been serving as ambassador to the European Union, is to assume the post in the next few weeks. The cabinet also is expected to discuss the unrest in the territories following the shooting at the Tarkumiya junction last week and economic issues. *Trim*

Toddler only bruised in 10-meter fall

A two-year-old boy fell yesterday into a 10-meter-deep hole left unfenced by a building contractor in Kafr Yarka, but suffered only minor cuts and bruises. The toddler's screams attracted the attention of family members, who called police and fire-fighters. The fire-fighters lowered a ring-and-rope device, and explained to the little boy how to put it over his head so he could be lifted out. Acre police are investigating the incident. *Trim*

Police assessment:

Damascus Gate bomb was terror act

By ELLI WOHLGELERNTER

Police are still working under the assumption that terrorism in western Jerusalem was the target of a bomb that apparently exploded prematurely near the Old City's Damascus Gate Friday morning. No one has claimed responsibility for the attack, which slightly injured four Arabs.

"We're talking about a bomb with the characteristics of a terrorist bomb, which was apparently [being carried by someone] on his way to the western part of the city to attack Jews," said Police Inspector-General Yehuda Wilk.

The explosion occurred beside a vendor's stall on Damascus Road just south of the Old City at around 8:20. Jerusalem police chief Cmdr. Yair Yitzhaki said the bomb contained 300 to 400 grams of explosives packed into a metal case, which the terrorists had placed inside an unused utilities box. Had the bomb exploded in the open it would probably have caused much more damage, police sources said.

Asked why they would want to set off a bomb in an Arab neighborhood, Yitzhaki said they might have planned to move the device to a Jewish area of the city later, and that it went off prematurely.

Police questioned Abdullah Shuweiki, the owner of a newspaper stall near the scene of the explosion, who told them he had noticed the metal box at about 7 a.m. but did not think to call the police.

Wilk said he had no specific warning of an attack within Israel, but additional forces were deployed around the city following last week's rioting in the terri-

tories, in anticipation of Friday prayers at Al-Aksa Mosque.

There were no reported incidents following services on the Temple Mount, where 20,000 worshipers stood for a moment of silence after Friday noon prayers in memory of the three Palestinians killed by soldiers at the Tarkumiya checkpoint last week. In another gesture of grief, some worshipers placed olive branches on a table in a courtyard outside the mosque.

Palestinian officials blamed the bomb on extremist Jews. "The timing of the bomb and the place reveals the party standing behind it, which is the settlers," said Ahmed Abdel-Rahman, secretary-general of the Palestinian Authority cabinet.

The four injured Arabs were taken by ambulance to a nearby hospital, said police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby. Police closed off the area and searched for more explosives, tying up traffic for hours.

Mohammed Najib adds:

Gaza Hamas leader Dr. Abdul Azziz Rantissi said yesterday the Damascus Gate explosion was carried out by extreme right-wingers or settlers. Rantissi charged that Israel is also responsible for the deaths of three Palestinian workers in Tarkumiya last Tuesday. He said the Palestinians are left with two options: to die or to resist.

"Our people must resist any Israeli violence directed at the Palestinian people," he declared.

In Nabulus on Friday, Sheikh Hamed Bittawi called the Tarkumiya incident a massacre carried out by Zionist occupiers and said coexistence between the Palestinians and Israel is impossible.



A Jerusalem policeman speaks into his radio mike on Friday while checking for more explosives near the Old City's Damascus Gate, following that morning's bomb blast. (AP)

PA: Try Tarkumiya soldiers

By MARGOT DUDKEVITCH and MOHAMMED NAJIB

A statement issued by the Palestinian Authority cabinet in Ramallah on Friday demanded the nearest of the two paratroopers who killed the three Palestinian workers at the Tarkumiya junction last week, and insisted they be brought to trial.

The PA charged that the Tarkumiya incident was a heinous crime and demanded intervention from the international community to prevent further violence and protect the Palestinian people.

The demand to put the soldiers on trial was condemned by Israeli officials.

"It is unacceptable because it encourages violence," said David Bar-Ilan, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's communications director.

"Instead of calming the areas and making it obvious that only peaceful means can resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the PA is inviting violence."

Bar-Ilan said the three soldiers "acted in accordance with regula-

tions." He charged that the PA was legitimizing the resort to violence "as an instrument of policy."

The demand for international intervention was reiterated by PA Chairman Yasser Arafat yesterday in Gaza before he left for Egypt, where he met with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak to discuss the peace process and the recent violence in the territories.

Hassan Asfour, the Palestinian coordinator of negotiations, declared that the Palestinian reaction to Tarkumiya was a natural one, aimed against the homicidal policy practiced by Netanyahu's government. Asfour criticized the US for not responding more actively to Israeli aggression.

Arafat's secretary, Tayib Abdul Rahim, said the PA was still waiting for international intervention, especially from Europe.

"The PA will support any honest and serious efforts made by the US to rescue the peace process from the current deadlock. The present situation allows Israel to continue with its settlement policy," he added.

Following his meeting with

Mubarak, Arafat told reporters that Israel had refused any US, European or Arab initiative and that it was determined not to implement the signed accords.

Relating to the outbreak of violence triggered by the Tarkumiya incident, Arafat said that despite the provocation by IDF troops and the settlers the Palestinians remained committed to the signed agreements.

Arafat continued to Doha, where he will address a meeting of Arab foreign ministers today.

Meanwhile, West Bank Preventive Security Chief Jibril Rajoub and PA Minister of Information and Culture Yasser Abed Rabbo will hold a press conference in Hebron tomorrow to discuss the Tarkumiya affair.

The Al Quds radio station in Syria, managed by Ahmed Jibril, the leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, called the PA an "Israeli agent" and blamed the Palestinian Police for preventing Palestinian demonstrators from clashing with IDF troops.

Jay Bushinsky contributed to this report.

Cook's plan to visit Har Homa upsets gov't

By JAY BUSHINSKY

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook's reported intention to begin his visit to Jerusalem on Tuesday with a tour of the Har Homa housing project with the Palestinian Authority's Faisal Husseini as his escort has aggravated government officials.

A visit to the site with Husseini at his side would be "doubly provocative," a senior aide said. "This is a political statement," he went on, noting that the Foreign Ministry submitted a formal protest to Whitehall.

Husseini was vague about the exact itinerary and his role in it. "Something is in the program," he said. "There will be a meeting between the foreign secretary and me. If he asks me to go there I will go with him."

The plan for a further IDF redeployment, which Cook is believed to be bringing to Israel, is another prospective irritant. It evidently calls for an immediate troop pull-back from 20 percent of the West

Bank's Areas B and C.

Netanyahu would limit the evacuation to nine percent of the West Bank area still controlled by the IDF. There is talk in official circles of "an obvious alliance between the British and Americans to create pressure on Israel."

Underlying this initiative purportedly is a joint desire by the Foreign Office and the State Department to show that the kind of arrangement that might be obtained through the European Union's good offices would be "worse for Israel" than that proposed by the Americans.

Cook's visit, during which he will be accompanied by the European Union's peace envoy, Miguel Moratinos, is particularly significant due to the United Kingdom's current presidency of the EU.

His objective is being interpreted as a bid to show that while Netanyahu may have enjoyed European hospitality during his four-nation tour last weekend, the EU's foreign policy is one of "toughness" insofar as the Israeli-Palestinian dispute is concerned.

The unveiling for
**ASHER LEMEL (Leo)
ZELINGER 57**
Will take place tomorrow morning, Monday March 16,
on Har Hazeltin, section Tashach.
The family will gather at 9:15 a.m. just below the
Seven Arches (formerly the Intercontinental) Hotel.
For more information please call 03-674-9962.
He is deeply missed.
The ways of Torah were his unswerving way of life.

Separating with love from
ALICE (Litzel) LUBRANY
The funeral will take place today, Sunday,
March 15, 1998, at 3 p.m. at the Hof Hacarmel
Old Cemetery from the main gate.
Bereaved families: Lubrany
Teig
Gottlieb
Labushim P.H.
and their families.
Shiva at the home of Teig family, Rehov Vitkin 14a, Haifa.

With deep sorrow we announce the
passing of our dear
GERTRUD PORGES
She donated her body to science.
Eva Hershkovitz
Uri and Dan Porges
Roy Susskind
Orna Imber
and families

One year after the passing of our beloved
GERSHON GLUCHOWICZ
We will meet to honor his blessed memory
on Thursday, March 26, at 8 p.m. in our home in Tel Aviv.
Friends and relatives who wish to honor his memory
in this way
please call 06-6799250 or 03-6428675
We will visit the grave in Kibbutz Lavi
on Tuesday, March 17, at 4 p.m.
The family

The staff of the Radiology Department of
Hadassah University Hospital, Jerusalem,
share in the grief of their friend,
Prof. Ronald A. Bloom
on the death of his
Mother 57
in London, England

Four killed, 15 hurt on roads

Four persons were killed and 15 were injured, one seriously, in six road accidents over the weekend.

A woman was fatally injured yesterday when the jeep she was riding in overturned while ascending the Makhshesh Hakatan in the Negev. Her husband and children were uninjured, but the woman, 30, died of her injuries while being treated at the military clinic at Hatzeva.

Ziva Nahmias, 18, of Nesher, was killed when her vehicle ran off the road and overturned last night near Kfar Yehoshua in the Jezreel Valley. The driver of the car and another passenger were lightly injured. Police are investigating.

Avraham Tzur, 80, of Haifa died yesterday of injuries sustained Friday when the car he was dri-

ving was hit by another car when he ran a stop sign leaving Kibbutz Lohamei Hagetaot. A passenger riding with Tzur was moderately injured and the driver of the second car was lightly injured.

Pedestrian Amram Buzaglio, 68, died Friday shortly after being run over by a bread truck as it was backing down an alley in Bat Yam. The police questioned the truck driver and released him.

In Tel Aviv on Friday night, a pedestrian, 97, was seriously injured when struck by a car as he was walking along a line of parked cars.

Last night in Rishon LeZion, 10 persons were lightly injured when two cars collided head-on outside Superland. *(Trim)*

SHARON

Continued from Page 1

Senior defense sources said the 425 initiative would also be raised with UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who is to visit Israel later this month. Concerning Sharon's remarks, a security source said last night that a unilateral withdrawal coupled with the threat of retaliation for any future cross-border hostilities was a "recipe for escalation and even a war."

The source said Syria would not give up the use of terror as a means to try and achieve its political aims vis-a-vis the Golan Heights. In such circumstances, a mortar round or Katyusha rocket fired across the border, or even a long-range attack on a bus traveling along the northern road, would be sufficient to force Israel to either make good on its threat or eat its words.

The source noted that at present the fighting in south Lebanon is contained within the framework of the Grapes of Wrath understandings, which ban deliberate firing at civilians on both sides of the border.

These would be destroyed in the event of a unilateral IDF withdrawal without any kind of alternative security arrangements, the source said.

The security source said that Sharon's unilateral withdrawal proposal also has the potential for dealing a major blow to the morale of the SLA and even bringing about the collapse of the security zone.

The source said that such a proposal coming from a senior member of the government has far greater significance in the eyes of the Lebanese than similar suggestions put forward by MKs.

Jay Bushinsky contributed to this report.

device was intended to cause mass casualties, despite the fact that it was relatively small.

The Afula bombing coming the day after one in Jerusalem raised the possibility that a new terrorist bombing campaign is under way, with a new tactic of using smaller devices, designed to cause casual-

ties and disruptions. As of last night no direct link had been established between the Jerusalem and Afula bombs, except that both were relatively small devices. The public is reminded to be on the alert and report any suspicious objects immediately - and not to touch them.

quarter in the past week. Yesterday three explosive devices were thrown at IDF troops in Hebron and clashes broke out at the Beit El military junction, near Psagot on the outskirts of Ramallah, outside Rachel's Tomb, and at Dura, the IDF Spokesman said. During the clashes rioters hurled firebombs and rocks at troops, who fired rubber bullets to disperse them.

The settlers stoned Palestinians and smashed car windshields and house windows. Police said footage taken by press crews at the scene would facilitate arrests.

The settlers claimed they were protesting an incident earlier in the night when shots from the H1 neighborhood were fired at the Avraham Avinu Quarter. The settlers said it was the third time shots were fired at the Jewish

vis-a-vis the Golan Heights. In such circumstances, a mortar round or Katyusha rocket fired across the border, or even a long-range attack on a bus traveling along the northern road, would be sufficient to force Israel to either make good on its threat or eat its words.

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AFULA

Continued from Page 1

Increased security measures are to remain in force today, especially in view of the close proximity of Jenin to Afula. Police did not rule out the possibility that the

JOURNALISTS

Continued from Page 1

Meanwhile, the Israel Police said it plans to press charges against some 30 settlers from Hebron who entered the H1 (Palestinian controlled) sector of the city on Friday night, sparking the rioting that injured the eight journalists plus two soldiers and one border policeman. As Border Police and IDF troops rushed to

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MINISTRY OF HEALTH Spokesman's Office

EXAMINATION BOARD FOR MEDICAL LICENSE ANNOUNCEMENT

Examination Board: Medical License Examination, in accordance with the regulation of the Physician's Law 1988. I announce that:

1. Applicants who qualified abroad, and are required to take the license examination may register for the next term examination until 28/4/98.
2. Application forms are available at, and should be submitted to the Regional Health Ministry offices serving the applicant's residence area.
3. An announcement regarding the date and venue of the examination will be published in official publications and daily newspapers, at least 30 days prior to the date of the examination.
4. Details regarding the languages of the examination will be included in a further announcement.
5. Explanatory material related to the examination can be obtained from the Regional Ministry of Health office, and from the Board of the Examination.

Prof. Joseph Schenker
Chairman of the Examination Board
Pursuant to Israel State Regulations 1988

MINISTRY OF HEALTH Spokesman's Office

EXAMINATION BOARD FOR MEDICAL LICENSE FOR INTERNSHIP ("STAGE") ANNOUNCEMENT

Examination Board: Internship qualification Examination, in accordance with the regulation of the Physician's Law 1988. I announce that:

1. Applicants who qualified abroad, and are required to take the internship examination may register for the next term examination until 26/4/98.
2. Application forms are available at, and should be submitted to the Regional Health Ministry offices serving the applicant's residence area.
3. An announcement regarding the date and venue of the examination will be published in official publications and daily newspapers, at least 30 days prior to the date of the examination.
4. Details regarding the languages of the examination will be included in a further announcement.
5. Explanatory material related to the examination can be obtained from the Regional Ministry of Health office and from the Board of the Examination.

Prof. Joseph Schenker
Chairman of the Examination Board
Pursuant to Israel State Regulations 1988

150

US Holocaust survivors to divide \$33m. this summer

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — Holocaust survivors in the US are due this summer to divide \$33 million from the Swiss fund for needy Nazi victims, but they will not face a "needs" test, according to the head of the American survivors, who called the fund "blood money."

It is not known what kind of needs test the Israeli survivors will face when they divide the \$39 million designated for Israel. Another \$59 million is destined for survivors in Eastern Europe.

"We are not going to be policemen on this," said Benjamin Meed, president of the American Gathering of Jewish Holocaust Survivors. "The question of who needs what we leave to survivors. I have no right to ask."

Meed, one of the directors of the Swiss fund, which is allocating \$770 million to survivors around the world, called the fund both "blood money" and an "entitlement."

"It's a free country, and Mr. Meed can say what he wants," said one Swiss Foreign Ministry official. "But we cannot reconcile a humanitarian fund with 'blood money.'"

The World Jewish Restitution

Organization, which administers the so-called "Jewish" portion of the fund, has developed a universal definition of a survivor: one who lived under Nazi rule, Nazi occupation, or under a regime of Nazi collaborators.

Neither the WJRO or the Swiss government tackled a definition of need. However, they agreed to the language of the Swiss law that established the fund on March 1, 1997. That said that the purpose of the fund was "to support persons in need who were persecuted for reasons of their race, religion, or political views or for other reasons, or otherwise were victims of the Holocaust/Shoa, as well as to support their descendants in need."

The criteria for the allocation for the Israeli survivors have not yet been developed, but there are some reliable indicators of survivors' need available from the National Insurance Institute. However, concern was expressed at the weekend that the Israelis would be subject to a test that the Americans had evaded.

In the US, the \$33 million would be divided among all those who apply to the fund. Meed and others are relying on most survivors to forgo assistance, or the fund

would be diluted to meaningless individual amounts.

There are an estimated 140,000 survivors in the US, and if more than 25 percent seek aid, there would not be enough money to fulfill the widely held expectation that survivors would get \$1,000 each.

Moreover, because there is no needs test for the Americans, it is not clear why it will have taken some 15 months to make the first distributions to survivors in the US.

Some Swiss officials were uneasy that Meed, one of the directors, derided the purpose of the fund and refused to insist that the poorest of the survivors be the first to benefit.

"From the first day, I felt [the humanitarian fund] should not be for the needy. From the first day I did not like this thing," said Meed, one of the three WJRO delegates to the board that administers the fund. "I didn't think it should be charity." Survivors in Latvia in November became the first Jewish recipients of aid from the fund; those in Hungary began getting aid in February. They received an initial payment of \$400, and are ultimately to get a total of \$1,000 each.



Jubilee poster unveiled

As the opening salvo in its 50th anniversary publicity campaign, the Israel Jubilee Association has produced this poster featuring (from left) Ethiopian-born Daniel Testeniya, 8, of Ashdod, second-generation sabra Daniel Yohai, 8, of Ashkelon, and Russian-born Leonid Yakimov, 7, from Kiryat Malachi.

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Suharto's daughter, cronies in 'more of the same' cabinet

By IAN MACKENZIE

JAKARTA (Reuters) — Indonesia's President Suharto has done it his way.

The 76-year-old Suharto, reelected last Tuesday for a seventh five-year term, consolidated his position with the appointment of old associates and his eldest daughter to the new cabinet announced yesterday.

Political and diplomatic analysts said, however, the key to the country's crisis management lay with Giandjar Kartasasmita, who was named economic coordinator as coordinating minister for the economy while retaining his planning ministry portfolio.

Analysts said allegations of nepotism and cronyism might be leveled against Suharto, with the appointments of his eldest daughter, Siti Hardiyanti Rukmana, as social welfare minister, and his close associate, Mohammad "Bob" Hasan, as minister of industry and trade.

But they also noted it is important the president have personal confidence in his government, something increasingly lacking in the previous cabinet as it struggled unsuccessfully to overcome the worst economic crisis in decades.

"The problem with the former cabinet was that the president lost confidence in them and this made them less effective," a senior financial analyst said. "He is the one who has chosen the new government and he must have confidence in them since he put them in place," he added.

Rukmana, a high-profile businesswoman who is regarded as the most politically astute among Suharto's six children, has long been involved in social welfare activities. She has said she turned down an offer of the portfolio in 1993.

"As a minister, she will be open to the same type of public scrutiny as other ministers," said political analyst Dewi Fortuna Anwar.

The same applies to Hasan, the first ethnic Chinese in a Suharto cabinet, a close golfing and fishing friend of the president.

Political analysts questioned whether the inclusion of family and friends in the government might send the wrong signals to the international financial community.

Analysts said foreign investors are likely to question Hasan's past business performance as a tycoon in the timber industry. The plywood cartel he headed had been

disbanded under reforms agreed with the International Monetary Fund, but newspapers said he had sought to reestablish the cartel in a different form until a public outcry halted the move.

Political analysts said Suharto had further consolidated his position with several other appointments of friends and loyalists. A key figure is the new vice president, former research and technology minister Jusuf Habibie, who was elected on Wednesday. Suharto has had an almost father-son relationship with Habibie, a German-trained aeronautical engineer.

The vice-presidential post has traditionally been largely ceremonial, but Suharto has given Habibie responsibility for industrial development and for relations with a number of foreign organizations. Financial analysts noted, however, that the organizations did not include key financial institutions like the IMF, which orchestrated Indonesia's \$40 billion-plus rescue package.

It was not immediately clear how Habibie might make his influence felt through the cabinet. But several analysts said they expect Giandjar — described as "smart, a good organizer and administrator" — to be firmly in

control. Habibie's unorthodox economic pronouncements and high-spending reputation sent the rupiah currency plummeting and drew adverse comments from the IMF when his name surfaced as a serious vice-presidential contender in January.

The economic crisis, with the rupiah down some 75 percent from its level against the dollar last July, has sparked social unrest among the country's 200 million people, with student demonstrations and unprecedented calls for Suharto to step down.

Political analysts said the expected appointment of two loyalists to the nation's top security positions showed the president aims to keep a firm grip on the powerful armed forces (ABRI) — the only real possible threat to his power.

Former ABRI chief Feisal Tanjung was named coordinating minister for politics and security, while his successor and former close Suharto aide, General Wiranto, added the defense portfolio to his ABRI duties.

This was the first time since 1983 that the posts of armed forces chief of staff and defence minister have been combined.



German Chancellor Helmut Kohl: Polls predict the worst general-election showing for his Christian Democratic Party since 1949.

Poll: Kohl trailing 41:36%

BONN (Reuters) — Germany's opposition Social Democrats (SPD) would defeat Chancellor Helmut Kohl comfortably if a general election were held now, a respected opinion poll predicted on Friday.

The monthly Politbarometer survey for ZDF television said the SPD would win the election with 41 percent of the vote while Kohl's conservatives would attract just 36 percent support.

Kohl is campaigning for a record fifth term in office in September's general election.

The poll figure for Kohl's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and their Bavarian allies, the Christian Social Union (CSU), was down one percentage point on last month. The SPD's rating increased by two points.

If the CDU/CSU were to garner

only 36% of the vote, it would be their lowest result since 1949. An SPD score of 41% would be the center-left party's best since 1980.

The poll contained more good news for the SPD. It rated their candidate for chancellor, Lower Saxony premier Gerhard Schröder, as Germany's most popular politician.

The Mannheim-based Electoral Research Group interviewed 1,288 people between March 9 and March 12 for this month's Politbarometer, one of Germany's most closely-watched polls.

The poll said the environmental-

ist Greens would win nine percent of the vote. A coalition of SPD and Greens, the most likely alliance to oust Kohl's government, would have an absolute majority in parliament, the survey predicted.

Kohl's junior coalition partners, the Free Democrats, would win five percent of the vote.

At the last general election in 1994, the CDU/CSU won 41.4% of the vote and the SPD won 36.4%.

The Politbarometer survey has a margin of error 2.5 percentage points for the larger parties and around 1.5 points for the smaller parties.

EU presses for Serb-Albanian dialogue on Kosovo conflict

EDINBURGH, Scotland (Reuters) — European Union foreign ministers stepped up pressure on both Serbia and ethnic Albanian leaders on Friday to stop posturing and begin a real dialogue over autonomy for Kosovo.

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook dismissed a Serbian government offer of "open dialogue" with the Albanian community in the southern Yugoslav province as nothing new, but also rejected that Albanian leader Ibrahim Rugova had rejected it so quickly.

"I must say it does not go beyond the fact that they have made a proposal which is not really a proposal for a real dialogue for enhanced autonomy," Cook told reporters on the first day of a two-day EU foreign ministers' meeting.

"It would have been helpful if the Kosovo leadership had not reacted

negatively so immediately, but I can fully understand that they want more on the table and we will be pressing Belgrade to move that way," he said.

Kosovo Albanian leaders boycotted talks with Serbian government negotiators in Pristina for a second day on Friday, denouncing them as a sham while a siege continued in areas where Serbian security forces killed at least 80 people last week.

German officials said Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel had written to Rugova on Thursday, urging him to accept the Serbian offer of dialogue and warning that "otherwise you will make things too easy for the Serbs." EU officials said the 15-nation bloc would focus on implementing the strategy agreed by major powers last Monday to ratchet up pressure on both sides to begin serious negotiations, rather

than looking for alternatives just because the two parties were not yet talking.

Cook said his special envoy to Belgrade had reported that Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, far from shrugging off Western financial sanctions, had been "stunned" by the speed and seriousness of the international community's reaction. Without privatization revenue, Milosevic could not balance Serbia's books, he said.

German officials acknowledged that the majority of Kosovo Albanians, who outnumber the Serbs nine to one, among the province's two million citizens, want independence, while the EU wants them to have a special status while remaining within the borders of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

The EU foreign ministers dis-

cussed the Asian financial crisis, over a working lunch and agreed to maintain efforts to stabilize the region's economies, both by contributing to an International Monetary Fund rescue package and by offering European expertise to adapt financial systems to handle market turbulence, Cook said.

France suggested on Thursday that the negotiations should be frozen if the Turkish Cypriots stayed away, prompting Greece to renew a threat to block entry talks with five central and east European candidate states if the Cyprus accession process did not run in parallel.

Cook said the solution was for the Turkish Cypriots to respond positively to the "realistic and generous offer" by Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides so they could form a joint negotiating delegation.

Italian PM sacks minister over Mafia probe

By STEVE PAGANI

ROME (Reuters) — Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi acted swiftly on Friday to remove any taint of wrongdoing from his government and sacked a junior minister facing allegations of collusion with the Mafia.

Prodi's 22-month center-left government has so far been untouched by the whiff of corruption that has helped strangle previous Italian administrations.

Within days of allegations linking junior interior minister Angelo Giorgia to organized crime, the Italian cabinet voted unanimously on Friday to begin procedures to force his dismissal. The decision became formal when President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro signed a decree revoking Giorgia's mandate.

Giorgia had denied all charges since his name appeared in a report by parliament's anti-Mafia commission.

The commission alleges that Giorgia, a former state prosecutor in Messina, Sicily, held improper meetings with a building entrepreneur who was suspected of links to the local mob.

Prodi and Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini, head of the Italian Renewal Party of which Giorgia is a member, asked him on Wednesday night to hand in his resignation, but he refused.

"I do not intend to sacrifice my impartial commitment to the defense of the law for political reasons," Giorgia, who also holds a seat in the Senate (upper house), said on Thursday.

A spokesman said Giorgia also wanted a full debate on his case in parliament, quoting him as saying: "They want to shut my mouth and this is why I want to talk before they stop me."

Giorgia also was suspected of shelving an inquiry into suspected irregularities concerning the awarding of a pharmaceutical contract to a Messina hospital, according to Italian newspaper reports. He has denied this too.

With what, in Italian politics, amounts to lightning speed, ministers acted to stop the potential scandal embroiling the government and taking up precious parliamentary time at a moment when its attention is on joining European Economic and Monetary Union (EMU).

The prime minister has made it his quest to overhaul Italy's finances and earn the respect of his European Union partners to prove that Italy can become a trusted member of the planned single currency.

Prodi and his chief ministers, notably Treasury Minister Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, want nothing to get in the way of the EMU timetable or cast the slightest doubt on the government's trustworthiness.

A statement from Prodi's office said the cabinet had to act because Giorgia's refusal had broken "a relationship of trust with the prime minister himself and the government."

The only other time a minister in Prodi's government has had to step down was in November 1996, when former anti-graft magistrate Antonio Di Pietro resigned as minister for public works. He had been accused of abuse of power during his probes in the early 1990s which eventually toppled the country's corrupt old guard.

A court in northern Italy acquitted Di Pietro of the charges last October, the fifth such ruling clearing him of wrongdoing. He

went on to win a by-election in November and took his place as a senator in the upper house of parliament.

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Sonia Gandhi elected to lead Congress Party

By NARAYANAN MADHAVAN

NEW DELHI (Reuters) — Italian-born Sonia Gandhi assumed the leadership of India's vanquished Congress Party yesterday while Hindu nationalist rivals' chances of forming the next government soared.

The Bharatiya Janata Party won the support of a recalcitrant regional ally and its prospects of power after inconclusive elections were further enhanced by signs of division in Congress.

Sitaram Kesri, who was replaced by the 51-year-old Gandhi as Congress leader, insisted he was still in charge. He branded the change approved by party leaders "illegal" although earlier in the week the octogenarian Kesri had said he intended to resign in her favor.

Leaders meeting in a session of the elite Congress Working Committee speeded the accession of Gandhi, the widow of assassinated prime minister Rajiv Gandhi, to the party throne to provide a focal point for resistance to the BJP.

"To remove the confusion and state of uncertainty leading to irreparable and immense harm to the party, the CWC resolves to appoint Mrs. Sonia Gandhi as president of the Indian National Congress ... with immediate effect," the party said in a resolution passed yesterday.

In her acceptance speech, Gandhi said: "I appeal to all the

Congress workers to come together with unity and determination to once again forge a Congress Party organization into a powerful tool in the service of the country."

Gandhi's appointment as head of India's oldest political party will clear the way for political negotiations and improve internal discipline, said Congress leader Salman Khursheed.

"Now the party will have a single voice, a single concern," he said.

Meanwhile, BJP leader Atal Behari Vajpayee moved tantalizingly close to winning a majority in the hung parliament returned by recent midterm elections. Grudging support from a Tamil Nadu-based party, the All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK), which has 27 seats, put the BJP alliance just eight seats short of a majority.

Vajpayee, who met President K.R. Narayanan earlier this week to discuss his prime ministerial credentials, will now wait to see if the president invites him to take power.

"We are awaiting the president's next steps," BJP president Lal Krishna Advani told reporters after a meeting with allies following the AIADMK's commitment to his party's cause.

The AIADMK had withheld promised support and raised a string of tough demands on behalf of Tamil Nadu.

Party leader J. Jayalalitha, a former movie star, confirmed that a

letter of support to the BJP had been sent to New Delhi but criticized the BJP for its "negative attitude" to her demands.

"All 27 of our MPs will not join the government but support [it] from outside," she told a news conference in Madras, referring to 18 lawmakers in her own party and others aligned with it.

"We are not happy, but it's in the public interest and since we are being accused of destabilizing the nation, denying the mandate of the people and stalling the formation of a government ... for selfish reasons, we don't want to lay ourselves open to such charges," she said.

The BJP has signalled willingness to dilute some of its policies to help form a coalition.

Narayanan, striving to form a stable government in his role as head of state, met leaders of a clutch of minor political parties later yesterday. By early last night, the BJP leadership was still waiting for his call.

"We have not heard anything from the president's office yet," an aide to Vajpayee told Reuters.

Narayanan met leaders of the centrist Congress party and the centre-left United Front on Friday.

Both of those groups are opposed to the BJP but have not seen eye-to-eye themselves since last November, when Congress withdrew crucial backing for an 18-month-old UF government that was formed to keep the BJP out of power.



A band member plays a noisemaker outside the Congress Party headquarters in New Delhi yesterday, after Sonia Gandhi was voted new party president.

EU agrees on formula for Cyprus accession talks

By PAUL TAYLOR

EDINBURGH, Scotland (Reuters) — European Union foreign ministers clinched agreement yesterday on terms for opening accession negotiations with the divided island of Cyprus after France dropped its objections, ministers said.

The accord means entry talks with Cyprus can start on schedule on March 31 even if Turkish Cypriots, as they have already pledged, reject an offer to join the Cypriot government's negotiating team.

The new agreement on Cyprus was reached with Cyprus at the meeting of the 31st British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook held a four-day news conference after two days of informal talks in the Scottish capital, Edinburgh.

But he added: "I do not want to pretend that we decided at break-

fast today what's going to happen in three years' time."

France and Greece both withdrew rival amendments to the British EU presidency's proposed opening position in the talks.

The proposal does not make a joint Greek-Turkish Cypriot delegation a condition for negotiations, nor does it make the resolution of the division of Cyprus an explicit condition for accession.

French Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine gave his agreement after telephoning Paris to get government approval. President Jacques Chirac said last week that the EU should freeze talks with Cyprus if it was not possible to negotiate with a joint team representing both sides of the island.

Cyprus has been divided since 1974, when Turkey invaded the northern third in response to a coup in Nicosia backed by Greece's then military rulers.

The self-styled Turkish Cypriot republic's parliament voted on Tuesday to take no part in the EU accession negotiations unless its sovereignty was recognized first.

Vedrine, backed by German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel, reaffirmed France's view that it was "neither desirable nor realistic" that Cyprus be admitted while it was still divided, since that would only reinforce the division of the island.

Greece, which has close ties to Nicosia, had threatened to block the entire accession process, including talks beginning on the same day with five former communist central and east European states — Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovenia and Estonia — if Cyprus talks were treated differently.

However, Greek Foreign Minister Theodoros Pangalos said

he was satisfied that "it is now a reality in the text that the beginning of the negotiations, the conduct of the negotiations and ratification will proceed in the same way for all countries."

To meet the French concerns, Britain amended the EU opening statement to say "our objective remains a united Cyprus" instead of saying "our objective means the accession of a united Cyprus."

The European Commission is to monitor the negotiations closely and report regularly to the EU council of ministers, and Britain will refer to the opening of the talks to Cyprus President Glafcos Clerides' offer to include Turkish Cypriot representatives as full members of the Cypriot negotiating team.

"It was also recognized that if a genuine, fair offer is made, the government of Cyprus cannot be

held responsible if there is an unreasonable refusal to take part," Cook said.

A EC source said Clerides had made two key concessions to the Turkish Cypriots by inviting them to join "the Cyprus delegation" rather than "the Republic of Cyprus" delegation, and by dropping an insistence that they must first recognize the legality of the Cypriot government's accession bid.

The commission hoped that as soon as accession talks had started — no doubt in the absence of the Turkish Cypriots — Germany would put pressure on Greece to release some 375 million European currency units (\$410 million) in EU grants to Turkey, which it has been blocking since 1980, the source said.

EC President Jacques Santer told a news conference with Cook it was "crucial that financial aid to Turkey be unblocked."

That might prompt Ankara to press the Turkish Cypriots to join

the accession negotiations, EU officials hope. But there is no guarantee that the strategy will work.

Nevertheless, ministers were encouraged at having defused the Cyprus bombshell, at least for the moment.

"I think it's a very good positive sign that we were able to overcome a real problem. The problem of Cyprus is not resolved, but we resolved an internal problem," Dutch Foreign Minister Hans Van Mierlo told reporters.

Asked whether the Cyprus-EU negotiations might open and then be suspended, he said: "That's always possible, but now it's hidden and not explicit in the text... there is no special procedure for Cyprus," he added.

Skeptics said the outcome merely kicked the Cyprus problem down the road a little, leaving Greece with the same power to block all other accession negotiations if anyone tried to stop the Cyprus talks.

Iran FM in Riyadh for talks

DUBAI (Reuters) — Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi arrived in Saudi Arabia yesterday for talks due to focus on bilateral ties and regional and Islamic issues.

The official Saudi Press Agency said Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Saud Faisal met Kharrazi at the airport in Riyadh.

Iran's official news agency IRNA has said Kharrazi would discuss bilateral, regional and Islamic issues and deliver a message from President Mohammad Khatami to Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah during the one-day official visit.

The trip follows a recent two-week visit to Saudi Arabia by former Iranian president Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, the latest sign of improving ties between the two regional powers.

Kharrazi also was scheduled to go to Qatar for a meeting of foreign ministers of the Organization of the Islamic Conference scheduled to start in Doha today, IRNA said.

Relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia, the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries' two biggest oil producers, have been tense since Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution. But they have warmed since the election last May of Khatami, who is seen as relatively moderate. Increased signs of cooperation in the past year included a renewal of direct commercial flights and the exchange of high-level visits.

Iran assumed the OIC's chairmanship for three years after hosting the 55-member organization's summit in December.

US: EU beef ban might damage WTO

By ROBERT EVANS

GENEVA (Reuters) — The US said on Friday the European Union must immediately lift its decade-old ban on imports of hormone-treated beef to come in line with the rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

US trade ambassador Rita Hayes told reporters after a meeting of the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body (DSB) that if the EU kept the veto — as officials have indicated it will — it would be undermining the authority of the trade body.

Hayes told the DSB that to comply with WTO panel and appeals board rulings finding fault with the ban, which US and Canadian

exporters say is costing them billions of dollars, the EU would have to rescind it.

"It needs to be done immediately," she told a news briefing later. "There is no wiggle-room on this, and there can be no difference in interpretation [of the rulings]."

The row is the most high-profile of a series of trade disputes involving food safety issues between the two big trading powers. Canada, Australia and New Zealand have strongly supported the US case.

EU ambassador Roderick Abbott told the DSB that Brussels "intends to fulfill its international obligations under the WTO" and was fully committed to the trade body's rules and system.

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Guess who came to dinner

By ROBERT W. WELKOS

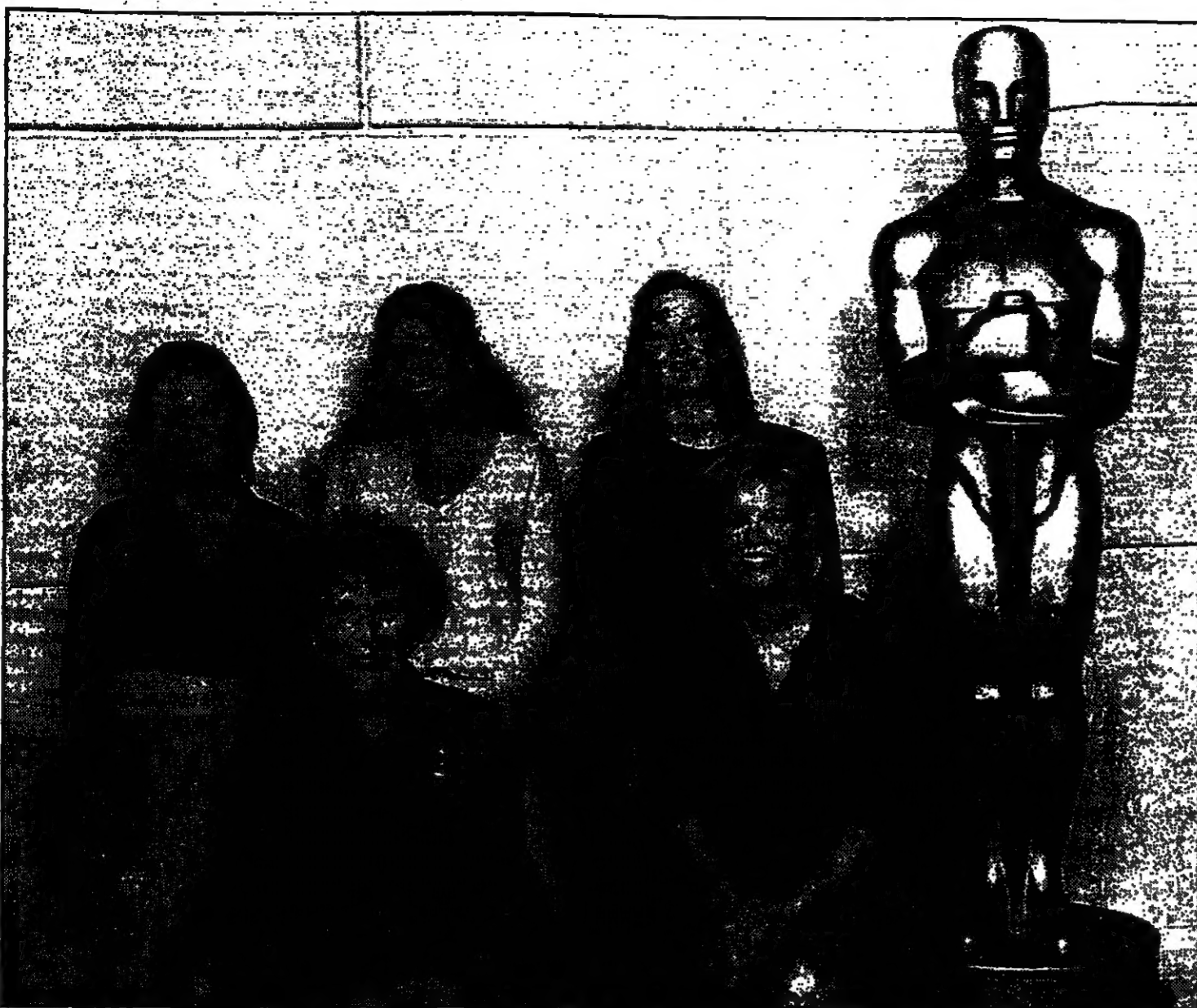
The question was put to Curtis Hanson, director of the Oscar-nominated film *L.A. Confidential*: Did it bother him to hear prognosticators say it's a foregone conclusion that *Titanic* will win Best Picture at this year's Academy Awards? "You know, it was a foregone conclusion that the ship was going to get to New York," Hanson quipped as a Beverly Hills hotel room which was filled with the world's entertainment media erupted in laughter. "We'll see what happens," Hanson said with a shrug.

With that, the director escorted actress Kim Basinger, one of the stars of his film, into the main ballroom of the Beverly Hilton Hotel, where about 120 nominees from 23 Oscar categories gathered for the 17th annual nominees luncheon hosted by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences.

The event is billed as a chance for the nominees to gather, meet one another, and be honored in a setting free of the tensions of Oscar night on March 23. But for many of the actors and directors who attended, it was evident they were still overwhelmed by the experience. For some, receiving an Oscar nomination means that years of struggle — either to get a film project or a career off the ground — are finally paying dividends.

Robert Duvall, a Best Actor nominee for his portrayal of a Texas preacher seeking redemption in *The Apostle*, a film he also wrote and directed, was asked what his character in the film might say if he had been in Duvall's shoes. "Praise God!" said Duvall.

Robert Forster, nominated for Best Supporting Actor in director Quentin Tarantino's *Jackie Brown*, recalled how he had gotten to the point in his acting career where he had no agent and was "scraping for everything" he could get because he had a family of four kids to support. "I went from a guy who couldn't get a job to a guy who people now say nice things



Candidates for Best Supporting Actress line up at the Oscar nominees' luncheon. Back row from left: Julianne Moore (for 'Boogie Nights'); Minnie Driver ('Good Will Hunting'); Joan Cusack ('In & Out'). Front row: Gloria Stuart (left, 'Titanic') and Kim Basinger ('L.A. Confidential')

about," Forster said, adding that the nomination means he is able to meet with "real directors with A-pictures."

Atom Egoyan, a Best Director nominee for *The Sweet Hereafter*, recalled that after making his crit-

ically praised 1994 film *Exotica*, he thought his next logical career move would be to make a bigger-budget movie for a Hollywood studio. But Egoyan said he soon discovered that decision was unsatisfying and jumped back into

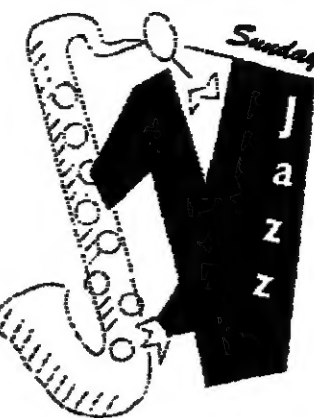
making smaller-budget, independent movies. Egoyan said, if nothing else, his nomination this year "sends out a message to other filmmakers that you don't have to give that up."

Nominated for Best Actress in *As*

Good As It Gets, Helen Hunt was asked if she would now bow out of her hit television series, *Mad About You*. "The truth is, I think my TV show actually helped my movie career," she said.

(Los Angeles Times)

Israeli bassist wows New York with 'dramatic swing'



By David Isaacson

At the age of 20, Givatayim's Omer Avital went to New York to play the bass. Two years later, in 1994, he became one of the founding regulars of Smalls.

JAZZ UNDERGROUND - LIVE AT SMALLS

Various Artists (Red Artz)

Today Smalls, a cellar in the Village, is one of the hottest venues for young jazz talent. Nightly gigs have earned rave reviews in the New York press, and serious jam-til-dawn sessions give the musicians the time and space to get acquainted.

On *Jazz Underground - Live at Smalls*, Avital and company fuse the big-band sound with modern ideas. In Avital's sextet (given two of the nine cuts), four saxes play in prearranged harmony, supported only by upright bass and drums. His thoughtful, delicate, at times sentimental arrangement of Frank Loesser's "I've Never Been in Love Before" remains both faithful to the original and, through the explosive sound of the saxes, in tune with today's power aesthetic.

He introduces his own "Kentucky Girl" with an intimate bass solo — think of Ry Cooder's evocation of Paris, Texas, but with a soulful acoustic sound in place of that maudlin electric twang. Then, in tandem with the drummer, he guides the reeds into their first crescendo before further weaving an eclectic and beautiful melody. He and solo tenor Joel Frahm take the band to startling new places while remaining within a solid frame. *The Village Voice* described the song as "a gospel Bolero."

Back in this country for four gigs in Tel Aviv, Avital says that influences are difficult to name because they keep changing. But he cites the "dramatic swing" of Count Basie and Quincy Jones. We're talking "thicker textures" than the post-modern quietist (tenor sax, trumpet, bass, piano, drums) we've been hearing for the past 10 years.

These textures lend *Jazz Underground* an unexpected accessibility. As Avital says, on a first disc you don't want to ignore commercial considerations.

The recent sales figures and positive reviews could help persuade impulse to promote him until he reaches the point of artistic freedom where he can really record what he wants. "Can you imagine the head of a record company telling Miles Davis who he should play with and what he should play?" he says, laughing.

For now, he sounds quite at home at Smalls. "We [the house musicians] all have keys and are there most of the day. It's like a workshop, but with a party atmosphere."

Late tonight through Wednesday, the Omer Avital trio (with pianist Jason Lindner and drummer Daniel Freedman) bring the party to the Camelot Club. Don't miss it.

Lloyd Bridges dies at 85

By ARTHUR SPIEGELMAN

Veteran actor Lloyd Bridges, who starred in the pioneering television series *Sea Hunt* and was the father of actors Beau and Jeff Bridges, died on Tuesday at age 85.

The craggy-faced Bridges, who began his film career as an actor in westerns in 1941, died at his Los Angeles home of natural causes, publicist Amy Van Iden said. At his side were his wife Dorothy, son Beau, and his daughter Cindy.

Beau Bridges told reporters on Tuesday night that his father would want to be remembered as a man who cared about "our Mother Earth." Fans placed flowers on his star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

"He was a wonderful father," said Beau. "I think if Dad could speak to those people who are thinking about him now, he would want you to all think about family."

Known as one of Hollywood's hardest-working actors, Bridges was born in San Leandro, California, on January 15, 1913. After studying political science at the University of California at Los Angeles, he went to Broadway, where he made his debut in a modern-dress version of *Othello*.

From Broadway, he went to Hollywood and became a fixture



Lloyd Bridges (right) with Kurt Russell and Kelly McGillis in the 1989 movie 'Winter People'

in western films. His rugged appearance helped him build a career at first in westerns and later in science fiction and action films. Among Bridges's best-known screen performances was the calculating deputy sheriff in the 1952 clas-

sic *High Noon*, who refuses to aid the sheriff, played by Gary Cooper.

Newer audiences cherished his polished sense of timing in the *Airplane!* series of comedy movies in the early 1990s. He played a gruff air traffic con-

troller trying to guide endangered planes to safe landings, while smoking up a storm and drinking himself into oblivion.

He starred in several television series including *The Lloyd Bridges Show* and *Sea Hunt*, plus scores of movies in which he fre-

quently played the villain.

He played Harry Helmsley in the 1990 TV movie *The Queen of Mean* about hotel magnate Leona Helmsley.

In the early 1950s, Bridges admitted to being briefly a former member of the Communist Party and was a cooperating witness before the House Un-American Activities Committee, which was probing communist influence in the film industry. It later cleared his name.

Bridges credited his wife of more than 55 years, actress Dorothy Simpson, with helping him build one of Hollywood's longest-running careers, saying in a 1994 interview with the *Los Angeles Times*: "My career, what there is, didn't happen that easy. Thought I'd never get in that door. But I married someone who had faith in me. It helped, that's where a good marriage comes in."

He appeared in several films with his sons, including "Blown Away" and "Tucker, the Man and His Dream," with son Jeff. He appeared in many television mini-series, including *Roots*, *East of Eden* and *The Eleventh Hour*.

To many, his best-known acting role was as Mike Nelson, the underwater diver in *Sea Hunt*, the 1950s TV series that was a major hit and one of the first shows to succeed in syndication. (Reuters)

An Israeli-American gospel oratorio in Haifa

By MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Composer Paul Schoenfield, whose oratorio *D'vorah* premieres with the Haifa Symphony Orchestra this week, admits that what he is really writing is folk music. "I feel that there is no further meaningful development possible in classical music," says the American-born composer, who has been living in Migdal Ha'emek for the past four years.

A few years ago the Haifa Symphony Orchestra performed Schoenfield's *Klezmer Rondos*. Now it is about to perform his new work, a huge choral undertaking about the biblical character of Deborah. The oratorio, heavily influenced by black gospel music, is sung in English.

"What fascinates me about gospel music is that it can be totally uninhibited. I have seen films of gospel services in which I see people dancing in the aisles. It's so much fun, it's extreme joy," Schoenfield says. He explains that "gospel music includes a variety of styles, written and performed over the past 150 years in America. There are a lot of similarities between gospel and popular American music."

Schoenfield admits that he had a major obstacle to overcome when composing *D'vorah*. "Gospel music is never performed with a big symphony orchestra but rather with small music bands. I didn't know what exactly I would do with the orchestra in this opus, but I hope I have solved it."

While he was composing *D'vorah*, Schoenfield was also working on an opera based on a story by Rabbi Nahman of Bratzlav about the merchant and the pauper. The as yet unnamed opera will be premiered by the Opera Theater of St. Louis in the summer of 1999.

"I'm very nervous both about that opera and *D'vorah* because these are styles I was not very familiar with. Before embarking on the opera I knew very little about the form. I had never been a big fan, so I had a lot of listening to do. That also goes for gospel music."

Schoenfield admits that he feels that he is, above all, "an American composer writing in Israel. My music is much more American than Israeli." And the composer, who for many years was not sure whether to make his living as a mathematician or a composer, acknowledges that today he writes on commission only. "I don't write for fun; as a matter of fact, if I had my own choice, I probably wouldn't have written anything."

But the commissions never seem to cease, and Schoenfield has been writing one major work after the other.

D'vorah is a 45-minute oratorio focusing on the story of Deborah, Barak, Jael and Sisera, as related

in the Book of Judges. The oratorio, written by Maggie Stein, combines biblical verses, a text for the preacher which is underpinned by music, and lyrics for gospel-style choir sections. Schoenfield believes that the story raises age-old questions, such as "Does the means justify the end?" and "Was Sisera's death really necessary, since his army had already been destroyed?"

D'vorah will be premiered by the HSO under the baton of John Nelson with the Oslo Gospel Choir and soloists. Tonight, tomorrow, Wednesday and Thursday at the Haifa Auditorium (8:30).

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Alexander Korsantya, pianist

Programme:
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Tchaikovsky: Symphony no. 5

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Paavo Järvi, conductor
Alexander Korsantya, pianist

Programme:
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Nielsen: Symphony no. 5

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Winds of social protest blow again

Sabra Sounds



By Emily Hauser

While *Zo Ota Haruah* ("It's the Same Wind") is Yoni Ro'eh's first solo album, the singer is a veteran of the music industry, having dabbled in just about every aspect of the profession, short of recording his own work.

His debut release fits best into our Mediterranean music scene, Greek and Mizrahi-influenced Israeli pop which embraces just about anything that happens on the shores of the big sea to the west. Thus one hears Arab, Spanish and

Greek sounds woven in among the pianos, guitars and Hebrew lyrics. In fact, some of the musicians performing on *Zo Ota Haruah* were brought over from the Greek isles for the gig.

What makes this disc good is that Ro'eh doesn't stick with well-worn formulas. Witness the title track, written by Polish-born folkie Chava Alberstein (also the artistic adviser on the album), who sings a duet with Ro'eh. The two seemingly disparate artists combine their talents beautifully, creating a moving discussion about the ways in which lovers can drift apart: "It's the same wind blowing/ and the same waves in the sea/... so why are our ships/ sailing in such different directions?"

Then there are the klezmeresque clarinets on "Tnu Lihot" ("Let Me Live") and "Pri Muzar" ("Strange Fruit"). Both are songs of social protest, the first asking simply "If I don't have any money/ what will I give my children?" The latter is a Hebrew ver-

sion of an American song by the same title which draws a stark picture of racism. On both, Ro'eh successfully mixes European clarinets with Middle Eastern stylings.

ZO OTA HARUAH

(It's the Same Wind)
Yoni Ro'eh
Helel

BEYN ARBAYIM

(Twilight)
Pavlo Rosenberg
Helel
**

creating moments which span both cultures. If you come to this CD with expectations of revolutionary musical revelations, you'll be disappointed. But if you like Haim Moshe, you'll probably like Yoni Ro'eh, too.

ON THE OTHER HAND, on *Beyn Arbayim*, ("Twilight"), Pavlo Rosenberg's sophomore effort, the

singer forges some formulas that he manages to wear out by the end of his own disc.

Backed by some very talented musicians, performing songs written by himself and a handful of well-known and respected local songwriters (Shlomo Artzi, Arkadi Duchin), as well as a Spanish-language track by Arhualpa Yupanqui, every song somehow sounds strikingly like the one before it. Hebrew, Spanish, it doesn't matter — it could all be the same language, and maybe even the same lyrics.

Which is not to say that there is nothing of worth on the album. There's some lovely acoustic guitar work (most of which is performed by Rosenberg himself). Rami Kleinstein contributes his not inconsiderable talents as a pianist on two of the tracks, and many of the lyrics are well-turned. In "Leylot April" ("April Nights"), Rosenberg sings of love and longing: "Sometimes I go crazy, go out of my mind, towards you — I'm getting on a plane so

that I can put an end to my wandering, with you."

The biggest problem is that Rosenberg's impassioned, nasal delivery changes little throughout the CD, obscuring the album's various good points. I found myself straining to listen under his vocals, so to speak, to hear how the songs differed from each other and what each had to offer.

Passion left unbalanced by subtlety begins to sound insincere at some point. Moreover, nasal tones should be produced around, not showcased. Rosenberg's unwavering approach to different kinds of material means that *Beyn Arbayim* gets boring early on — and that's too bad because he clearly has a fair amount of talent on which to draw.

DID YOU KNOW?

Q: The Yoni Ro'eh song "Shir Osher" ("Happiness Song") was penned by Ronnie Someck. Who is Ronnie Someck?
A: He is a Hebrew poet whose work has been translated into over

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EDITORIAL OFFICES AND ADMINISTRATION The Jerusalem Post Building, P.O. Box 81, Ramat Gan, Jerusalem 91000
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Taking Serbia to task

For once, the swift reaction of the United States and the European Union to the recent crisis in Kosovo is to be commended. The imposition of sanctions on the Serbs demonstrates a just anger and a will to do something about it that was so disastrously lacking in the early days of the Bosnia war.

It was gratifying to see the 26 leaders of the 15 European Union states, plus the 11 aspiring members, fully backing the embargoes and an arms ban against Slobodan Milosevic's Yugoslavia which was agreed earlier last week by the contact group of the major powers — the U.S., Russia, Britain, France, Italy, and Germany. Milosevic's cosmetic offer of talks with representatives of Kosovo's Albanians, after his troops killed around 90 of them and flattened many of their homes, fooled no one. It was Milosevic who raised tensions first in Kosovo by unilaterally removing their autonomy in 1989. The formula to reduce tensions would appear blindingly obvious — restore the autonomy. After all, 90 percent of Kosovans are ethnic Albanians, and Milosevic

cannot expect them to accept anything else in return for dropping their unrealistic campaigns for Kosovo independence.

Daily press releases from Belgrade continue to ignore the deaths of women and children in the Serb "anti-terrorist" campaign, and they continue to shrill complaints about interference in Serbia's internal affairs. "The government does not accept to have an internal issue internationalized."

The world has news for Belgrade: the issue is internationalized. The United States and NATO have always believed in the potential of trouble in Kosovo to flare into a conflict spreading across the southern Balkans, maybe even dragging in Greece and Turkey. That is why there is a special UN peacekeeping mission in Macedonia, where 350 American and 500 European soldiers patrol the border, and why there is a military mission in Albania, as well as the 31,000 NATO troops in Bosnia. International law and order is not just an internal affair when rogue regimes like Milosevic's are involved. Bad neighbors are everyone's business.

Missing out on Cyprus

For the first time, the European Union has come close to walking itself into a brick wall over plans to expand its membership.

The issue at stake was Cyprus and, while the meeting of EU foreign ministers in Edinburgh did manage to reach agreement yesterday on the terms for membership negotiations with the divided island, there remains no guarantee the problem is going to be easy to surmount.

It had appeared that France and Greece between them might run the accession of the whole group of 11 aspiring nations into the ground over Cyprus. Yet neither was being entirely unreasonable. France was dubious about immediately accepting the Cypriot application, because it is understandably worried about importing a new ethnic feud into the EU.

The old theory, that once fully within the EU prospective members' mutual antagonisms would simply fade away, has not stood up to the test of reality in Northern Ireland. Ireland and Britain may be much better friends and partners today than are Greece and Turkey, yet they have been unable to bridge the ravine of hatred between the Nationalist and Unionist factions in the North.

Greece, on the other hand, was quite correct in objecting to having Cyprus punished by freezing its application for membership. It was the intransigent Turkish-occupied North that threw away a golden opportunity and refused to join the negotiations alongside their Greek Cypriot brethren, without any loss of face.

Cypriot President Glafcos Clerides cannot be faulted for the gesture he made to the Turkish Cypriots to join the talks. Clerides included two important face-saving concessions for them. He said they could join a Cyprus delegation rather than that of "the Republic of Cyprus," which they do not recognize. He also dropped the former

government's insistence that the breakaway North should accept the legality of the Cypriot bid to join the EU.

In their refusal even to consider joining the talks, Turkish Cypriots may be making an error for which their future generations will castigate them. There is a clear suspicion in European diplomatic circles that it is Turkey that has cut off the nose of the Turkish Cypriot enclave to spite Europe's face.

Turkey's petulant attacks on the EU may be proving only that Brussels may have been correct to delay Ankara's membership bid, because of its current democratic immaturity. Since Turkey's bid was put on hold and that of Cyprus was accepted, all trace of moderation has disappeared from Turkish Cypriot attitudes on the Cyprus problem.

Turkish Cypriot leader Rauf Denktaş has indicated that all options are off until the Cyprus government recognizes the legitimacy of the North.

Since the fall of communism, dozens of new states have been recognized across the East Europe and around the borders of Russia and Turkey. North Cyprus, however, is not among them, and never will be, and it is time Turkish Cypriots faced that reality. Whatever their past grievances and complaints, they must understand that to the rest of the world, the division of Cyprus is a matter of the illegal invasion and occupation of territory. It will not be recognized inside Europe, and serious negotiation is the only route to getting the Turkish army out of Cyprus, and to getting a fully demilitarized and reunited state.

If Turkish Cypriots would agree to join the EU membership bid, they could do more to hasten their own autonomy, prosperity, and international recognition than Turkey will ever do for them.



A paper tiger called Iraq

MARTIN VAN CREVELD

Now that the Iraq crisis appears to be over, we can see it for what it truly was. The threat that Saddam Hussein presents today has been vastly exaggerated, both in the United States and here in Israel.

With his military force still weakened by the 1991 Gulf War and his economy crippled by seven years of sanctions, the Iraqi president is incapable of mounting a serious assault on anyone by air, land, or sea. It is hard to know precisely what the economic situation in Iraq is today; the country's economic data have long been considered a state secret.

But in 1990, the last year for which reliable estimates exist, the International Institute of Strategic Studies in London suggested that Iraq, with its 18 million people, had a gross domestic product that was equal to between 1 and 2 percent of that of the United States. Since then, the country has lost a major war, endured a series of vicious civil wars in which thousands (and possibly tens of thousands) were killed, lost control over much of its northern territory, and been subject to sanctions that deprived it of approximately two-thirds of its major source of hard currency — oil. Short of some hidden miracle, the Iraqi economy must certainly have fallen to a small fraction of its former size.

What's more, Iraq has never had any major arms-producing industries and, because it is almost entirely surrounded by hostile countries, it is unlikely to have received significant amounts of arms from elsewhere. It is a Third World country without a highly developed technological or manufacturing infrastructure. (Who remembers ever buying anything — apart from dried dates — with the label "Product of Iraq" on it?) As the Gulf War itself demonstrated, Iraq did succeed in assembling a primitive version of a 1950s-vintage Soviet medium-range surface-to-surface missile. But the attempts to extend the Scud's range were so inept that the missiles fired at Israel in 1991 often disintegrated in midair.

Even at the peak of his power in 1990, Saddam Hussein's engineers could not build major weapon systems such as aircraft, artillery pieces, or tanks, let alone develop the sophisticated electronics necessary to guide the weapons they carried to their targets.

And now, faced with a shortage of spare parts (which his country, without a large automotive or electronics industry, cannot produce), Saddam Hussein is probably incapable of carrying out any large-scale military

ground movements, which would require putting into working order the 3,000 or so vehicles that are needed to move a modern armored division. Even if he could muster his troops, it is highly unlikely that his air defense system, which was all but destroyed in 1991, has been rebuilt enough to protect their movements against the kind of air attack that the United States could direct against it.

As for Saddam Hussein's vaunted "weapons of mass destruction" and the infrastructure needed to produce them, they are less of a threat than they have been made out to be — and bombing wouldn't have done away with them, anyway. As some of America's leading scientists confirmed to me only two weeks ago, the sort of biological and chemical weapons that Saddam Hussein is thought to have developed can be produced by any university laboratory — and with very limited means.

Even if, by some miracle, the last germ-bearing vial in the last Iraqi laboratory could be targeted and blown up or else dismantled by United Nations Special Commission inspectors, the vial's contents could be quickly recreated.

Of course, the missiles that deliver chemical and biological weapons are harder to produce. But, after seven years of the UNSCOM inspectors' unrelenting hunt for them, it is hard to believe that Saddam Hussein still has many left — or that he possesses the command-and-control infrastructure needed to launch more than a handful of them at one time.

More important still, the grouping of chemical and biological weapons together with nuclear weapons under the common rubric of "mass destruction" is misleading for the following reasons:

As the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki so spectacularly demonstrated, nuclear weapons are capable of destroying entire cities — even countries — in a matter of seconds; by contrast, chemical and biological weapons, however horrible they may be, allow their targets hours or even days in which to act and react. In that time, cities can be evacuated, affected areas can be decontaminated, and those people who have fallen ill can be treated with medicines and antidotes. Many may die, but the society and its infrastructure will survive.

A whole arsenal of chemical and bacteriological weapons is no match for the even less powerful of America's 10,000 nuclear weapons — and it is not even clear that Iraq has

many. (Indeed, one argument for Saddam Hussein's reluctance to allow inspections has been that he has so few weapons left that he does not want to reveal his weakness.)

Washington's main Arab allies, such as Saudi Arabia and Egypt, seem to realize that Saddam Hussein presents a minimal threat to his neighbors — let alone to more distant countries. With the exception of Kuwait, which obviously felt obliged to follow the call, they refused to join in the recent crusade against Iraq.

Yet, senior US policymakers seemed intent on magnifying the Iraqi threat. And Israel followed suit, partly because it wants to side with the US, partly because it hopes to obtain additional free or discounted military equipment and partly because Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu wants to postpone for as long as possible additional withdrawals from the West Bank. And the threat seems particularly overblown considering the arsenal in Israel's hands.

Saddam Hussein must realize the first chemical or biological warhead launched against Tel Aviv would almost certainly be the last. While it is hard to understand the motivation behind the Washington's belligerence, there is a larger and more positive lesson to be drawn from the crisis.

Ever since 1946, when first the Nuremberg trials and then the United Nations Charter identified conducting "aggressive" war as a crime, states have been losing their previously undisputed right to use force against their neighbors.

President Bill Clinton's wrangling with the Security Council and its emissary, Secretary-General Kofi Annan, brings to mind the way in which medieval rulers once required the pope's consent before going to war; until about 1300, to wage war without the pontiff's blessing was to pay a heavy political price.

Now, at the end of the millennium, even the world's sole remaining superpower finds it extraordinarily difficult to go to war without first obtaining the sanction of international law. Thus the recent crisis may be remembered, if at all, as yet another stepping-stone toward delegitimizing war between nations. And, considering the havoc that such wars have wrought on the world during the first half of the 20th century, that is not such a bad thing at all.

The writer is a military historian at the Hebrew University.
(The Washington Post)

Wanted: A leader

DANIEL BLOCH

The leadership of the Labor Party and the Left is worried. Just a few months ago everyone was sure that the change of government in Israel was right around the corner. By the middle of 1998 the Netanyahu government would be toppled by a vote of at least 61 MKs, new elections would be held and Ehud Barak would win easily.

Some more optimistic politicians even thought that the Left would be able to convince 80 MKs to support new elections just for prime minister. A few politicians had already ordered new suits for the new government's swearing-in ceremony.

They can store the new clothes. Change is not imminent. On the contrary, it seems today to be more remote than ever. Netanyahu looks as if he is going to enjoy political longevity. Some of it is due to sheer luck.

Between Saddam Hussein and Monica Lewinsky, the peace process is not a priority on the American or international agenda. The Israeli government is not under external pressure at the moment and the general security situation in the meantime does not look risky or shaky.

Netanyahu's performance seems to improve in office, as the decision making process of appointing the new head of the Mossad has proven.

The most important factor ensuring Netanyahu's survival is the utter lack of leadership by the opposition. Ehud Barak is not gaining in stature. All the justified criticism against the present government has not brought the leader of the opposition any dramatic gains in public opinion polls.

Barak lacks both the experience and the charisma to become an unchallenged head of the opposition.

In the few instances that Barak has led over Netanyahu, it was due only to the Arab vote. The iron law of Israeli politics is that you cannot be sure of winning any election unless you have a comfortable lead among the Jewish vote. This is a political axiom, whether we like it or not.

There is need for deep questioning to discover the root of the Left's failure to gain the majority of the Jewish vote. It seems to be first and foremost a case of poor leadership. The public is disillusioned with the government's performance in internal affairs, both in economic and social matters as well as in questions of law and order.

The majority of the Jewish public is ready for the continuation of the peace process based on the Oslo Accords, including the possibility of further withdrawals in the West Bank and the creation of a Palestinian state. But strangely enough, it still prefers the current government to lead this process over any possible alternative.

The failure of Barak is not a question of a slip of the tongue here or there, like his most recent one. Our political dictionary is full of stupid quotes from Ben-Gurion to Begin and from Rabin to Netanyahu.

No leader is perfect and you can't expect anyone to say the right things all the time. But a charismatic leader who projects warmth and sincerity can easily overcome such mistakes. Barak seems unable to bypass all his self-made roadblocks.

Israeli political history has proven that it is very difficult to jump directly from an army career to a civilian political one. Rabin's performance during his first term in the 1970s was full of grave mistakes. Moshe Dayan and Yigal Alon could not master enough political power of leadership to reach the top job, though they were both charismatic and talented.

Barak lacks both the experience and the charisma to become an unchallenged leader of the opposition. He has not succeeded in defining his agenda and drawing a clear line — ideological and practical — between himself and Netanyahu. He does not understand that even with the direct election system you cannot win without the support of a large grass-roots organization.

Netanyahu can afford to weaken the Likud because he has the hard-on on his side. But Labor and the Left have historically relied on a big party machine that can mobilize tens of thousands of people prior to election day. Without it they will never win unless a catastrophic disaster causes the Right to lose its grip on the public. The leader of the opposition cannot win it without his party, especially when his style of leadership is not convincing and leaves much to be desired.

If Barak does not improve his political, managerial and leadership style he will soon find himself in the political wilderness and the opposition will be forced to search for a new and different kind of leader, one who can win.

The writer, a former editor of Davar, comments on current affairs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

HAREDI BIRTHRATES

Sir, — Lately, the media has worked itself into a frenzy about the high birthrate prevailing in the haredi community and the enormous cost and burden it imposes on the taxpayers.

I wonder if the vociferous Left has investigated with equal zeal the birthrate of Israeli Arabs and its impact on the budget.

Are Israeli Arabs contributing any more to Israel's security and armed services than the haredim? Are they more loyal citizens?

While Israeli Arab children may eventually join the work force, some of them could/would also support or even join Hamas. Can you put a price tag on this short and long-term impact on our future?

As one who lives part of her time in Jerusalem, whenever I walk to the Wall, my anxiety forces me to constantly turn my head, for fear of being stabbed in the back. I have no such fear walking through Mea Shearim.

Is there no limit to the Left's hypocrisy and double standards?

JULIE GRUNWALD

Ramat Gan.

RAISING KOHANIM

Sir, — Do you ever get the feeling that you go to bed in one place and wake in another? Well that's the feeling I had when I awoke this morning. I went to bed in Jerusalem but maybe I awoke in China or Tibet!!! Rabbi David Yosef Elboim is planning a center in which he had colleagues will raise children born to Kohanim.

Here they will be brought from birth, raised in isolation to be free from contamination and will be taught and trained in the rites and rituals of purifying the nation with the ashes of the red heifer. This purification will allow ascent to the temple

Sir, — I was pleased that Yosef Goell said that Shlomo Gazit's utterance re "knitted kippa" soldiers and swastika-wearing Nazi soldiers was a monstrous thing! Religious Jewish boys cover their heads with kippot. There is nothing political and everything religious about it.

Mr. Goell, however, then went on to question the readiness of our boys to follow orders from their military superiors. This statement is just as, if not more so, monstrous than Gazit's. I have two "knitted kippa" sons in

mount!!! A red heifer has as yet not been born but a mother has already been found who is willing to have her son placed in this center.

Am I living in a country of rational people ready to face the 21st century or in a country regressing in democratic values and human rights?

Rabbi Elboim and cohorts should be indicted for contemplating child abuse. I doubt very much if our founding fathers had this in mind when they declared Israel as a Jewish State.

HONEY STOLLMAN

Jerusalem.

KIPPOT IN THE ARMY

the IDF, one a pilot and one a combat soldier. Neither they nor anyone else they or I know would ever think of not following orders in favor of a rabbi's order concerning anything military, and I wish to protest this, once again, defamation of the religious Zionists in our country. They are the ones in ever-increasing numbers who are doing the dirty and dangerous work in the IDF.

RUTH BROCH

Kiryat Ata.

FROM OUR ARCHIVES

65 years ago: On March 15, 1933, The Palestine Post reported from London that tens of thousands of Jews were trying to escape the Nazi reign of terror, appalling persecution and new anti-Jewish measures like suspension of kosher slaughter. The bodies of Jews were daily recovered from the Spree, the Berlin canal. Max Reinhardt, the famous producer, had fled to Vienna.

50 years ago: On March 15, 1948, The Palestine Post reported that a Hagana armored column fought its way through the Arab village of Faluja, wrecking 11 buildings and claiming more than 40 Arabs dead and many wounded. It brought supplies to the besieged Gath, and then fought its way out again with the Jewish settlement's produce for marketing.

25 years ago: On May 15, 1973, The Jerusalem Post reported the speech by the Transport Minister Shimon Peres who called on the Arab States to "wake up from their dreams" and cooperate with Israel against the common terrorist threat against civil aviation.

Alexander Zvielli

The View From the East

DAOUD KUTTAB

Don't blame the soldiers

Every single day I cross an Israeli military checkpoint in the northern part of Jerusalem at least twice, taking my children to and from school. I live on one side of the army post and my kids' school is on the other side. I often have to wait 10 to 15 minutes to cover 300 meters of cars and trucks in the queue.

For nearly a year only vehicles with yellow [Israeli] license plates have been permitted to cross into Jerusalem and Israel, but the lines take longer at certain times of day because of the terrible traffic mess. Despite the decision not to allow West Bank-registered vehicles to drive into Israel, almost every Palestinian from Jerusalem has a car with the coveted yellow plate registered in his name.

And almost every Palestinian Jerusalemite possessing a valid Israeli license drives either a car or van transporting students, doctors, teachers, and white collar employees, as well as regular laborers. The checkpoints become terribly overcrowded in the morning hours as Palestinians arrive on foot or are dropped off at one side of the checkpoint, while there are cars or vans on the other side waiting to pick them up. While I normally cross the checkpoint without thinking too much about it, whenever a Palestinian is killed at a checkpoint I become very self-conscious. As I approach these checkpoints I try to look at the soldiers manning them to determine whether they want me to stop or proceed.

Sometimes they transmit clear signs of stopping or permitting us to go, but usually their hand and facial expressions are not clear. Was his head motion signalling me to stop or

to proceed? Did his hand movement demand me to stop immediately or to keep going? Most often, a soldier's lack of interest means that you can proceed.

If I am late for an appointment I try to slow down enough to show the soldier that I am not disobeying his orders, but keep going fast enough so that unless he has a good reason he will let me go through. I try to remember when I rush through the post a little faster than usual to look in my rearview mirror to make sure that the gun of an angry soldier isn't pointing at me.

Going back in the other direction is usually much easier, since most of the time there are no soldiers manning the checkpoint when one is returning home. You forget about the checkpoint until you come right up to it and if it happens that soldiers are stopping cars you often have to slam on the brakes or try to slow down again to give the appearance of acknowledging the man with the gun.

I never understood why the Israeli check cars as they leave Jerusalem. Are they trying to protect the areas under Palestinian control? No, they are trying to catch a worker who had slipped into Jerusalem or Israel without a permit and is trying to get home. In fact, many Palestinians are arrested on their way home from work or even after sneaking into Jerusalem to go to a hospital or to see a loved one.

I can easily imagine how the three workers were shot to death in Tarkumiya last Tuesday. The soldiers who are assigned to these checkpoints are usually young and overwhelmed by the responsibility they are given by politicians who

refuse to deal with reality. Trigger-happy soldiers with the words "Born to kill" on their army uniforms are the last people who should be posted at these crossing points. But the soldiers are not the only guilty parties. Their military commanders, as well as the politicians who support the continuation of the occupation of a proud people by the power of the gun, are as guilty as the soldiers who pulled their triggers.

Within 48 hours after the killing of innocent workers at Tarkumiya, almost every senior Israeli politician — from the Speaker of the Knesset to the president, prime minister, and defense minister — expressed their condolences. The switchboard of Chairman Yasser Arafat's office was busy as Israeli leaders called to express regret at the incident.

But few Palestinians believe a word of remorse from the hypocritical Israeli leaders, foremost of whom being Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. This Israeli PR performance is aimed at preventing another outbreak of violence, but instead of shedding these crocodile tears Mr. Netanyahu and company should do what they promised Clinton, Mubarak, Hussein, and Arafat to do: withdraw from the Palestinian territories — with the exception of settlements and military posts — and fulfill the other obligations. Only then will tensions be lowered enough so that Palestinians can pass through Israeli checkpoints each day without looking in their rearview mirrors to see whether an automatic gun is pointing in their direction.

The writer is the director of the Institute of Modern Media at Al-Quds University in Jerusalem.



Miyagawa Choshun: portrait of a beauty, early 18th century, ink on paper (\$15,000-\$20,000 at Sotheby's New York)



Gandharan bodhisattva, 3rd/4th century (\$250,000-\$350,000 at Sotheby's New York)

Far East and far out

AT THE AUCTIONS

Over 1,700 items of Japanese, Chinese, Indian and Southeast Asian art are being offered in the context of Sotheby's Asian Week in New York later this month.

On March 23/24, there are no fewer than 751 Chinese lots on offer. The first 329 lots are magnificent snuff bottles in every technique and material, a few pieces with top estimates of \$6,000. Lot No. 79, a pair of rare Qianlong porcelain snuff bottles, has an estimate of \$30,000-\$50,000. Lot No. 80 has a collection of snuff bottles contained in a specially designed Japanese chest, formerly in the collection of General Mitsunobu Uchida, purchased by an American colonel in the Occupation Force (\$30,000-\$70,000). Other bottles from Colonel Melville Noyes's collection are also on offer. Most of the lots in this part of the sale are exceptionally fine. A few begin at just \$800. Sets of snuff dishes are also on offer. Just the thing for wealthy cocaine snuffers?

The second session of lots 333-516 is devoted to ceramics; some exceptionally beautiful opaque yellow glass; furniture; and works of art with carvings in jade, bone and horn. There are dozens of splendid carvings of deities, priests and Buddhas in wood, limestone and marble. A modernistic-looking painted wooden figurine of a lady from the Han dynasty is a masterpiece of sculptural formalization (\$10,000-\$15,000). A magnificent Tang dynasty limestone carving of a monk is expected to go as high as \$350,000.

Session three (lots 517-752) comprises some typical unglazed polychrome Tang horses, camels and traders, some of the latter of possible Semitic/Jewish aspect. There are many blue and white vases from the Jiaqing, Kangxi and Ming. A Large Kangxi example in the yanyen form is painted with a classical landscape (\$10,000-\$15,000). Among the furniture, my eye is always drawn to classically formed horseshoe-back armchairs. A 19th-century lacquered bamboo pair have an estimate of \$4,000-\$6,000. Earlier chairs of this type in solid wood would go for many times that sum.

Sotheby's has announced the offer of a number of important handscrolls and painted albums in

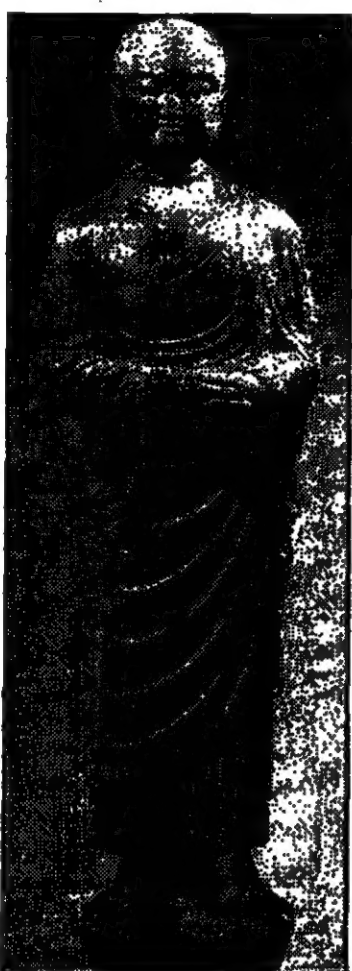
this sale but I could not find them in the catalog. One is by the Daoist warrior monk Qiu Chajin (1148-1227), who helped establish the Yuan dynasty. His painting of a scholar under a pine with calligraphy is valued at \$180,000-\$220,000.

JAPANESE WORKS of art, including sword blades, are to be sold in 340 lots on March 24. They are headed by a magnificent and rare Kakemono polychrome enamel on porcelain horse from the late 17th century, possibly made for the Dutch trade; it comes from the trust of the late collector Jacob Goldschmidt of Berlin and has an estimate of \$400,000-\$600,000. I have had the good fortune to visit the Kakemono pottery in Kyushu, Japan's southernmost island, where the secret of nigoshi, the flawless white of the porcelain, has been handed down from father to son for 300 years. The present Kakemono master, a keen businessman too, once visited Jerusalem. His chieftain plates and vases are in wide demand. But this 45cm-high horse is something else.

This sale opens with familiar woodblock prints by Hokusai, Hiroshige and Kunisada (Hiroshige 3rd) but most of them are a vast unloading of often melodramatic prints by Tsukioka Yoshitoshi (1839-92), often described as the last major figure of the ukiyo-e tradition, but to my mind, the herald of its decline. Yoshitoshi was an enormously facile illustrator, the best of whose work was derivative of his predecessors and when it wasn't, descended into fashion-plate kitsch. What dismayed me is that his prints are being offered here at prices the same as or higher than those of Hiroshige and Kunisada, though prints by these masters are admittedly more plentiful. Some are up to \$3,000.

There are several woodblock prints by Shiko Munakata (1903-75) in this sale, with top estimates of \$15,000 and \$3,000. Munakata had his own style, quite divorced from the ukiyo-e tradition. Half a century ago I bought several Munakatas in Osaka for a few dollars and subsequently gave them to girlfriends. Every time I see Munakatas in a catalog now, I wince.

Among the paintings is an ink on paper by Kawai Gyokudo (1873-1957), estimate \$8,000-\$10,000; and a painting on silk of a bird in flight by Mori Kansai (1814-94), though both of these works are sick. They do not compare with an ink painting on paper



Monk, Tang Dynasty, limestone (\$250,000-\$350,000 at Sotheby's New York)

of a beauty by Miyagawa Choshun (1652-1753) that rightly has an estimate of \$15,000-\$20,000; and slightly over-pretty silk kakemono with chrysanthemums, a pine and songbirds attributed to Kiyohara Yukinobu (1643-82) with a modest estimate of \$2,000-\$3,000.

Japanese iron from the Charles Greenfield collection will also be offered on March 25.

THERE ARE over 400 lots in the Indian and Southeast Asia sale on March 26. One of the major items is a handsome 3rd/4th-century Gandharan bodhisattva in carved gray schist in a semi-decadent, oddly European style; the pedestal contains figures with a bodhisattva seated on a lotus in the center (\$250,000-\$350,000). There are some amazing relief stone sculptures: a pinkish relief fragment with a lion and an elephant from Rajasthan, 11th century (\$6,000-\$9,000); and a slightly earlier 12-armed goddess Durga grasping a buffalo by the muzzle (\$60,000-\$90,000). A torso of a smiling and well-endowed sandstone goddess from this period, slightly damaged, has an estimate of \$10,000-\$15,000. There are several marvelous Ganeshas, one a 12th-century stone stele with the elephant seated (\$80,000-\$120,000) and the other a fine



Nepalese stone stele of a four-headed Cakrasamvara, 16th century (\$60,000-\$90,000 at Sotheby's New York)

standing one, from South India, a Tamil Nadu 13th-century bronze (\$40,000-\$60,000). Among a number of glamorous bronzes is a large figure of the beautiful Parvati, Vijayanagar, 14th/15th century (\$60,000-\$90,000). The 15th-century gilded bronzes from Tibet are often astounding. The Dharmapala Yamanaka has 16 legs and 34 arms (\$20,000-\$30,000). An even more amazing and ornate Sino-Tibetan version of this figure in gilded bronze is seen making love to its consort while trampling Hindu deities, animals and birds on an oblong lotus (\$20,000-\$30,000, certain to go higher).

Among the Indian paintings is a richly colored depiction of a prince in a pavilion with a maiden on each arm, Jamnu, 1700-10 (\$20,000-\$30,000). A Kangra scene, circa 1820-25, of Krishna in a forest glade with a bevy of adoring gopis (grouplets), has a top estimate of \$50,000.

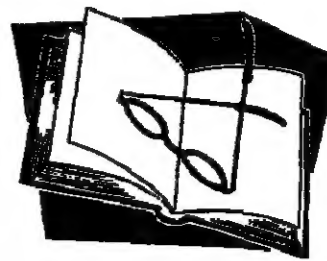
There are many Tibetan thankas and magnificent manuscript covers, one more interesting than the other. Some of the latter go as high as \$35,000. A series of Thai bronze buddhas, running up to \$60,000 and \$120,000 for a 13th-century Lopburi style, are also superb. Rarely does one see such a great variety of truly beautiful artifacts in a single sale.

DR. ALFRED BADER, a Milwaukee art dealer and collector who bought the recently authenticated Rembrandt *Portrait of a bearded man in a red coat* and a recently rediscovered *Rubens of Salome with the head of John the Baptist* at Sotheby's New York this January, will lecture (in English) at the Israel Museum on Tuesday March 17 on "The Bible Through Dutch Eyes." Bader specializes in collecting Dutch biblical paintings and loaned part of his collection to the 1993 Israel Museum show "Painting the Bible in Rembrandt's Holland." Admission is free to Friends of the Museum. For tickets call 02 670 8985.

Bader, a Viennese-born chemist, was one of the founders of the Aldrich Chemical Corporation, today the world's largest supplier of research chemicals.

The grand duchess of scandal

Book Review



By Owen McNally

THE ART OF SCANDAL: The Life and Times of Isabella Stewart Gardner, by Douglass Shand-Tucci (Harper Collins)

Isabella Stewart Gardner, the flamboyant arts patron, founder of Boston's classy Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum and muse to many noted painters, writers and composers, was a hot, often scandalous subject for the press from the Gilded Age to the Jazz Age, until her death in 1924 at 84.

Writers loved to pull out all the stops when reporting on, embellishing or just plain fabricating her supposed latest bohemian antics. Gardner's social sins ranged from the "shocking" décolletage of her sexy, fleshy image in the once-infamous por-

collection be maintained exactly as she had arranged it.

Gardner, who had a keen eye and a fortune inherited from her father, amassed a lode of masterworks by such titans as Titian, Rembrandt, Raphael, Matisse, Degas and Manet. Her chief art adviser was her protégé, a budding genius named Bernard Berenson, a Jewish youth from the Boston slums who went on to become one of the art world's most celebrated connoisseurs and art agents. And throughout Gardner's life - even before her loving husband, Jack, died in 1898 - there was a constant buzz about how she was having affairs with favorites among the smart set at her salon.

Fenway Court, as her villa was called before opening as a museum in 1903, was her home, her Xanadu, treasure box and spiritual center. There the grand duchess of Fenway socialized with such cultural heavyweights as novelist Henry James (she was an inspiration for several James characters), philosopher George Santayana and painter Sargent.

Santayana and Sargent were among numerous gay intellectual luminaries who flocked to Fenway, where phobias about sexual orientation, color and

Isabella Stewart Gardner's social sins ranged from the 'shocking' décolletage in her infamous portrait to openly and happily consorting with the social outcasts of the age

trait done by John Singer Sargent to her openly and happily consorting with such social outcasts of the multiphobic, bigoted Victorian Age as Jews, Blacks, Irish Catholics and Boston's emerging gay and lesbian subculture. Her "outrageous" deeds seemed aimed at tweaking Boston's bluesoes.

Gardner never forgot how Back Bay bluebloods scorned her when she arrived in town in 1860 as the 20-year-old bride of John Gardner, a proper Bostonian with loads of money.

Biographer Douglass Shand-Tucci presents an amusing litany of Gardner anecdotes in his gossipy, winning portrait of the lady in *The Art of Scandal*. Many delectable, tabloid-like tales swirl about Gardner, a bold, brilliant nonconformist who designed and built her own jewel box of a museum on Boston's marshy Fenway to house herself and her fabulous art collection.

Gardner anecdotes range from the time she reportedly strolled through the Boston zoo leading a lion on a leash to when the devout Episcopalian donned sackcloth and ashes and scrubbed the steps of a Boston church. And there were juicy rumors about how this free-spirited lover of cigarettes, black spirituals, the Boston Red Sox, boxing and jujitsu would bathe naked in a fountain in her villa's opulent courtyard, or how she would disport nude on a rug before the Titian masterpiece, *The Rape of Europa*.

When the cultural maverick died, she left her palatial villa and collection to the city of Boston with the proviso that the

race had no place.

Gardner's villa also served as a personal performance center. Such superstars as Australian diva Nellie Melba and Polish piano virtuoso and composer Ignace Paderewski performed for the millionaire maverick and the coterie that enjoyed being on the A-list for this Perle Mesta of the cerebral set.

Shand-Tucci's great strength is as a gossip writer - a high-toned one, but a gossipmeister nonetheless. Although his prose too often ranges from turgid to recondite, he's a master compiler and analyzer of everything from Gardner's affairs of the heart - always probing to see if they were platonic, carnal or completely fictional - to her feisty, almost two-fisted way with workmen who didn't conform to her master plan while building her dream villa.

But unlike tabloid tellers of tall tales, Shand-Tucci places this fascinating character in sharp historical context, giving her her due as an important figure in our cultural history and as "a pioneer in the emerging role of women in America." Gardner's museum has been on and off the front page since 1990, when thieves, dressed as Boston policemen, made off with 13 works of art in what has been called the biggest art heist in American history.

Valued at perhaps \$300 million, the haul included Rembrandt's "The Storm on the Sea of Galilee" and Vermeer's "The Concert," two triumphant catches Gardner made while trawling for European treasures to bring home to her beloved Fenway digs.

(The Hartford Courant)

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Earthly Concerns



By D'vora Ben Shaul

One of the most important factors in the development of a steady, sustainable economy is demographic stability. Unless populations can be maintained at a fairly stable rate, the economy cannot keep up with ever-increasing demands for food, fuel, land, and natural resources. The world population is estimated at 5.9 billion, but by the year 2025 it is expected to reach a stag-

gering 9.0 billion. According to the 1994 United Nations Population Fund report, even this number is a conservative estimate, based on the fact that there has been an increase in the use of contraceptives in the underdeveloped nations. The use of modern contraceptives in those areas has risen from 20 percent in the '60s to almost 60%.

In industrialized countries, more than 75% of couples use contraception. The UN believes that this rise will continue into the next century and will lower the birth rate. If it does not, however, they say that by the middle of the 21st century, there may be 12.5 billion people on earth. This drastic increase will occur mainly in Africa, Asia and South America.

In these developing countries, the population already exerts excessive pressure on cropland, water and forest resources, even within their meager levels of con-

sumption. An additional three to five billion inhabitants will create an untenable situation.

The planet lacks the means to cope with such an immense number of consumers. There will not be enough, potable water, cropland or other resources to supply even the most basic needs.

Disregarding for a moment the lack of fuel, water and mineral matter, will there be enough food for so many people?

Worldwatch Institute, a Washington think tank, says there won't. According to Worldwatch president, Lester Brown, agricultural production is leveling off, often referred to as the "green revolution," which brought modern farming techniques to vast areas of the world, is a thing of the past.

"The world is very close to reaching its capacity," says Brown.

Japanese farmers, some of the most skilled agricultural technicians, have not been able to increase yield rates in over a decade, nor have most of the farmers in the US and Canada. In addition, less and less arable land is available, as increasing populations and rapid industrialization occupy more and more space.

The sea, once regarded as a potential source of food for billions, is becoming depleted, and catches are drastically lower than they were even a decade ago. Overfishing and pollution have taken their toll, and many species of food-fish and edible mollusks are in danger of extinction. Sea catches that were at a peak of 100 million tons in 1990 have declined to 70 million tons.

What is more, peak production of grain per person worldwide has already been exceeded.

In 1983 the world produced 346 kilograms of grain per capita; in

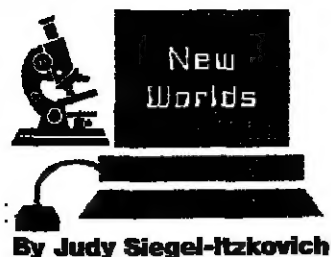
1994 it had fallen to 303 kg. By 2030 it will probably have dropped to 240 kg. This is marginally more than the 200 kg. per person that sustains the population of the Indian subcontinent. It is also drastically less than the 800 kg. per person consumed in America, where a large part of these cereal products goes into meat production.

The expected shortage of food will drive world prices up, says Worldwatch. While this will help stop overconsumption in the wealthy nations, it means that more people will have a sub-subsistence diet in other places.

Worldwatch has asked for a worldwide outlay of \$60 billion a year for birth control to try to stem this population deluge.

"It's a lot of money," says Brown, "but the US military intelligence budget alone is \$30 billion. We just have to get our priorities straight."

More to algae than meets the eye



By Judy Siegel-Itzkovich

A Hebrew University doctoral student has inadvertently made a discovery that will force scientists worldwide to recalculate their estimations of global warming and its consequences.

Dan Tchernov was studying aquatic organisms when he found that many types of algae – tiny aquatic plants – release carbon dioxide as well as oxygen, instead of just using the CO₂ as a raw material to produce oxygen. The finding, published in a recent issue of *Current Biology*, has aroused a great deal of interest in the scientific world.

Tchernov was doing his doctoral research project under the direction of Prof. Aaron Kaplan and in cooperation with Prof. Leonora Reinhold and Dr. Miriam Hassidim of the botany department; Prof. Boaz Luz of the HU Institute of Earth Sciences; and Dr. Assaf Suker of Haifa's National Institute of Oceanography.

Tchernov's surprising discovery, made during a series of analyses to determine the quantity of CO₂ marine life organisms could absorb, could have a major influence on the scientific understanding of global warming.

Up till now it was believed that in photosynthesis, plants bearing chlorophyll absorb and release oxygen; Tchernov, using a mass spectrometer to examine blue-green algae, found that these microscopic plants release CO₂ as well as oxygen.

The photosynthetic process in plants plays a vital role in determining atmospheric and climatic conditions on earth. But man has interfered with this natural process by burning fossil fuels and rain forests, causing the amount of CO₂ in the atmosphere to increase and hold heat within the atmosphere.

This process has caused great apprehension among the world's scientists as it can undermine the natural ecological balance.

Forecasts of the greenhouse

effect are based partly on estimates of the concentration of CO₂ in prehistoric eras, including the availability of carbon dioxide to algae and its influence on the organic matter within them.

But now that the production of CO₂ by these organisms has been discovered in Jerusalem, this fact will have to be taken into account. It will, said Kaplan, require alterations in estimates, enabling more exact projections into the future.

After the experiment was repeated using a variety of algae types, the researchers realized that they had discovered a general phenomenon, and that the data on CO₂ production was not the result of a measurement error.

They also discovered that the amount of CO₂ released during photosynthesis was five times greater than the oxygen released during the same period of time.

The researchers believe that, in this way, the plant organisms release surplus light energy that they have absorbed from the sun.

The research, funded by the US-Israel Binational Science Foundation, will continue, with the aim of finding out the extent of the phenomenon, and how it can be measured in natural concentrations in nature rather than just in lab samples.

HISTORIC 'POST' ISSUE ON NET

The May 16, 1948, issue of *The Palestine Post* declaring the establishment of the State of Israel has been put up on the Internet.

A number of articles from that historic edition of *The Jerusalem Post's* predecessor can be read, just like articles in today's *Post*, by visiting its Internet Edition at <http://www.jpost.co.il>. The issue will remain on the *Post's* site for the next six months to help mark the Independence Jubilee.

The *Palestine Post* issue presents the article headlined "State of Israel is Born" and the proclamation of independence by the new head of government, David Ben-Gurion. Even advertisements that appeared that day are shown.

The front page of the 50-year-old paper, which on that Sunday was printed on only a single sheet of newsprint due to power outages in Jerusalem, was put on display in honor of Jewish Web Week, held recently. It brought together hundreds of Jewish- and Israel-related Web sites and aimed at having 600,000 Jews on line at once – the equivalent to the num-

ber of males counted at Mt. Sinai.

RODENT RANTINGS

Your pet gerbil may prefer sleeping in a ball to being communicative, but in the wild these small rodents have been found to use a sophisticated range of calls and thumps to warn each other and their babies of danger.

San Francisco State University biologist Janet Randall, who has spent years watching gerbils and kangaroo rats, says they can communicate very clearly when they need to.

Gerbils, who live in social groups but barely emit a few soft squeaks in captivity, probably do not tell others the type of predator that is nearby, Randall said. "But it certainly is communication. It grows from a rhythmic to an intense whistle."

"As the predator gets closer, the animal doing the calling changes its call, from a show whistle to jumping up and down to whistling and thumping. It gets more urgent, and when there are pups around, the gerbils signal more often."

"I look at this as an evolutionary biologist. Many animals have language. Animals respond to it, it has specific information in the signal, and there are specific responses."

For instance, when Randall taped the calls, the gerbils responded just as if a live animal were signaling, but they didn't respond to a tape of a bird singing.

"When it was an intense call indicating more danger, the animal would respond by staying longer in the burrow where it was safe," she said.

Randall studied gerbils living in Uzbekistan and compared their behavior to the kangaroo rats of California, Arizona and New Mexico. She found that gerbils (one species of which is native to Israel) communicate far more than the more solitary kangaroo rats do.

Kangaroo rats, which jump very high, seemed to talk to the snakes and other predators that hunt them. Like many other animals from rabbits to deer, they let the stalker know when it had been spotted.

"The kangaroo rats appear to be trying to convince an approaching snake or other predator that they are vigilant and can't be caught," she said.

One type will even go up to a snake and actually confront it. The predators seem to understand, and give up stalking when they are spotted.



Online research is a great way to get kids to do their schoolwork – and like it.

Dad stumped for answers? Ask the 'homework helper'

By DON OLDENBURG

Schoolchildren are increasingly turning to the Internet to research reports and do homework – posing new challenges for teachers, many of whom are not yet online.

When Joanna Hoffman had to write a report on melanoma last November for her health class, the Maryland high school sophomore researched it entirely at home, and entirely online.

Searching the Internet's vast resources, she found useful information on 20 World Wide Web sites, ranging from university studies on skin cancer to the American Cancer Society's site.

"For this particular report I only used the Internet," says the 15-year-old pupil, adding that without it she probably would have depended on encyclopedias at the school library. "I found it more convenient to print out pages of information rather than hand-write notes from a book."

"It's a great way to get kids to do their schoolwork – and she likes it," says her mother Barbara, who sometimes has to restrict her daughter's online time because it ties up the phone line at their Silver Spring home. She is also pleased that Joanna has become more enthusiastic about homework since replacing it with the public library with surfing on the Internet.

"There is always an answer somewhere on the Net," says Joanna, who earned an "A" on the melanoma report. "In this day and age the phrase 'I don't know' is hardly ever applicable."

Need to write bios of ancient Greek statesmen? Want help on algebra equations? Looking for the latest data on Mars? Students from elementary school through

high school are increasingly diving into the Web's more than 150 million pages to find answers and resources – many previously beyond their grasp.

A big chunk of today's online population (from 15 million to 22 million in the US alone) is "kids from seven years old to high school," says Robert Kraut, professor of social psychology and human-computer interaction at Carnegie Mellon University.

MOST students first encounter the Internet as little more than an awesome electronic research library. With a decent search engine, some know-how and a little patience they can find answers online to nearly any factual question. The Net speaks volumes (some sites, literally) of searchable encyclopedias, dictionaries, thesauruses, atlases and almanacs.

"The Internet is an ideal learning tool because it allows children to seek knowledge at their own pace and interest level," says Kari Sable Burns, a former kindergarten teacher who now runs an information technology consulting firm, Kari & Associates, in Olympia, Wash.

She noted how the Internet multiplies ways for youngsters to learn: "If I were studying birds, I could go to a site sponsored by a museum in New Zealand and listen to the distinct bird calls while looking at their description and reading about their habitat."

It's also true that the Internet can multiply ways for youngsters to cheat. Teachers worry about how easily entire pages of information can be copied into reports without properly citing them – either intentionally or through simple forgetfulness. Term-paper factories are now hawking other peo-

ple's reports and original term papers on the Internet. Some children even post their own reports online, only to have them ripped off by students elsewhere.

"What I'm hearing from teachers is, 'How are we going to stay one step ahead of the kids?'" says Charlotte Thompson, the library media specialist at a Maryland high school. "So teachers are changing their strategies."

At that high school and elsewhere some teachers are structuring research paper assignments with many checked and graded steps.

"We don't just do a paper, we do a process," says Thompson. "That makes it nearly impossible to use a canned paper."

But most are assigning work that emphasizes "higher-level learning" – synthesizing, analyzing and evaluating, says Thompson. A paper making a case for Hamlet as a hero or villain, for example, is harder to plagiarize than a basic summary of *Hamlet*. "It's going to be a real challenge for us, but all for the good," says Thompson.

At home, too, some online-savvy students have also found that when parents often stumble over long-forgotten lessons, the Internet provides credible help with basic homework.

At www.schoolwork.org, students find links to dozens of online resources in 22 categories, from art to statistics. "I think young people like the site because it acknowledges that doing homework is a bore," says Maureen Shields, head of adult services at the New City Library, in New City, N.Y., who created schoolwork.org in the fall of 1996 to help students find good information online.

"As a librarian I know that print and CD-ROM resources can't keep up with the complexity and depth of subjects taught in a lot of courses," she says.

That explains why "homework helper" sites are increasing online. Some, like America Online's "AOL Homework," emphasize forums, message boards or "Ask a Teacher" features in which students e-mail or post questions and get rapid responses.

Government, university and institutional Web sites often provide e-mail links to staff members and faculties, and "Ask the Expert" sites provide direct links to experts in various fields who have volunteered to field questions.

Meanwhile, online field trips and collaborative projects provide ongoing "first-hand experiences" for children built around a journey or topic of investigation.

On the Public Broadcasting System Web site kids climb Mount Everest and explore the pyramids. At the Discovery Channel Online, children recently learned about "the brief history of skateboards" and chatted with NASA experts about renewed interest in returning to the moon.

Prof. Seymour Papert of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's media lab, who has studied children and computers for more than two decades, says these kinds of opportunities on the Internet will change the nature of education.

"They are getting the sense that they can direct their own learning," says Papert. "They can do it with this highly empowering and exciting sense of pursuing knowledge themselves." (The Washington Post)

TELL ME WHY

Hair-raising brows

By JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

Why do some men – but no women – have bushy eyebrows? They seem to continue growing and growing, while most people's eyebrows just stay put. Arthur, Kfar Sava.

Dr. Dov Stempier, a dermatologist at Assaf Harofeh Hospital in Tzrifin, answers:

Eyebrows in both men and women grow, but the distribution of hair in men is different than in women. Males also have more thick body hair called terminal hair, while women have thinner body hair.

Men and women have the same number of hair follicles on their skin. The difference in hair growth is not the level of sex hormones, such as testosterone, but the reaction of the hair follicles to the hormones.

The cycle of hair extends over a period of two to six years. It grows, then the follicle rests, and then it drops out. No hair grows forever. Those men whose cycle is longer may have bushy eyebrows. In addition, bushy eyebrows tend to run in families, as there is a genetic predisposition for this trait.

I have just moved to an apartment near a forest. I needn't have brought my alarm clock with me. Every morning, at around dawn, the birds sing. Is it the light that makes them sing? Is it only the males, who are courting the females? Does it go on all day long (there is noise later, so maybe I don't notice) and all year long, or only in the spring? Dafna, Jerusalem.

Itzik Yedid, head zookeeper at the Tzich Biblical Zoo in Jerusalem, replies:

The reason for the concert at dawn is probably the light. Most song-



Guys with bushy eyebrows can blame their genes... or complain to their mothers.

birds begin their activity at dawn, and it continues through most of the day, although they are less active at noon, when it is hotter. You take notice of them early in the morning because there is no traffic and nothing else to interfere with their songs.

It is not only males that sing, but females too, in a dialogue. It is definitely a conversation, but, according to legend, only King Solomon knew exactly what they were saying; scientists do not know.

Birds do sing more during the spring, because of courting behavior and the pleasant weather, but they continue to communicate year round.

Which is better for water sup-

plies, rain or snow? Jerry, Jerusalem.

Dr. Aric Ben-Zvi, head of the Israel Hydrology Service in Jerusalem, replies:

Rainfall comes down directly, but snow obviously takes some time to melt and reach underground aquifers and the Kinneret. If rainfall is plentiful one year, it can run off and be wasted; in such a case, it would advantageous if snow were to fall, so the additional supply of water could arrive later in the season, when Mt. Hermon's snow melts (March through May).

But melting snow can evaporate in the heat of the spring, so more is usually lost than when rain falls. So if it's not a year with plentiful rainfall, rain is better for the water supply than snow, but the difference is not large.

Have you always wondered about the scientific explanation for ordinary phenomena? Now you can get an answer. Mail your question to TELL ME WHY, The Jerusalem Post, POB 81, 91000 Jerusalem, fax to (02) 538-9527, or send it by e-mail to jusie@jpost.co.il. Please include your first name and place of residence.

Bald eagles – too few for comfort

By TRUDY TYMAN

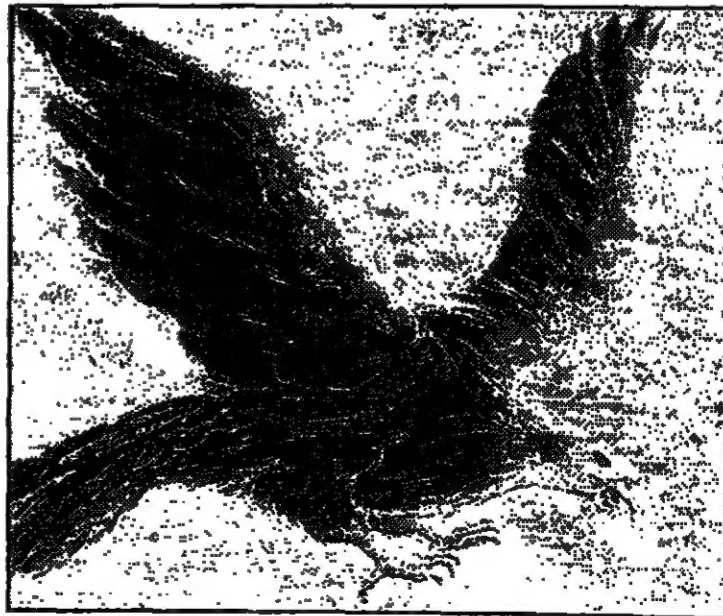
As a thick cold winter fog lifted over the wild islands of Massachusetts' Quabbin Reservoir, a young bald eagle rose from the soggy pines. Within minutes, three bald eagles – two young birds and a white-headed adult – were turning lazy circles over the reservoir.

Telescopes were unwrapped. Watches buried deep in the sleeves of down-filled parkas and rubber slickers were consulted. And state ornithologist Brad Blodgett's walkie-talkie began crackling with other sightings along the banks of the sprawling reservoir that has become one of the main wintering grounds for bald eagles in the US northeast.

Since 1979, groups of state and federal biologists, with hundreds of volunteers, have staked out rivers, lakes and streams in the lower 48 states each January to count bald eagles in a census that has traced the recovery of the country's still-threatened national symbol. It isn't easy.

The small group of biologists and volunteers at a roadside pull-off overlooking the Quabbin Reservoir stood in the icy rain for more than three hours before spotting three bald eagles. Then the fog swept back in, obliterating their view of the reservoir.

It wasn't until the skies cleared the next morning that a helicopter survey of the Quabbin was able to tally 41 bald eagles and boost the preliminary Massachusetts count, which has never exceeded 70 statewide. "It's a surprisingly good number given the conditions," said Bill Davis, director of the state's



A slowly recovering population, still under threat.

eagle restoration project. Most of the bald eagles wintering here are from Maine and eastern Canada. They drift south as lakes and rivers freeze, he said.

Last year, 16,642 eagles were tallied across the country, according to Karen Steenhof of the federal Raptor Research Center in Boise, Idaho, which has been coordinating the bald eagle census since 1992.

The largest totals usually come from Missouri, Illinois and Iowa, where the fish-eating birds gather by the hundreds along open stretches of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers.

Despite the chance of bad weather, the census is taken in

mid-January, Steenhof said, because by then most eagles have reached their wintering grounds, where they are easiest to count.

Among other things the numbers, which have hovered around 16,000 for the past five years, provide clues as to where and how the eagles are expanding as the population recovers from the use of DDT and other now-banned pesticides.

"One of the trends we have been looking at is that we are seeing them more and more in more urban locations," Steenhof said. That's of particular interest in heavily populated states, such as Massachusetts, where, as the number of birds rises they increasingly have to share

their waterfront habitats with human boaters and vacationers. Their tolerance of humans seems to vary widely, Davis said.

Three of the state's nine nesting pairs of eagles have settled along heavily used sections of the Connecticut River, including one pair that has been adding to their nest across from a busy boatyard for eight years. The structure, high in a white pine, now weighs more than 360 kilos. Another pair is nesting among summer vacationers at Assawompsett Pond in southeastern Massachusetts. Still, some of the five nesting pairs at the Quabbin will try to scare off biologists if they approach within a kilometer of their isolated nests, Davis said.

Twenty years ago the only nesting eagles in the Northeast were along Maine's Down East coast, where fewer than 40 pairs had survived the decimation caused by DDT and other now-banned pesticides. Maine alone now has more than 200 breeding pairs.

Most of the other nesting eagles in the Northeast came from efforts in the late 1970s and early 1980s by New York and Massachusetts to raise and release young chicks. New York's chicks came from Alaska, while Massachusetts' came from nests in Michigan and Canada.

Since 1986, when the first native Massachusetts chicks in nearly a century were hatched, the state's bald eagles, which raise one or two chicks annually, have produced a total of 75. Still, their toehold in the state is precarious. A blizzard last April destroyed the eggs in half of the nests last spring and only eight chicks hatched. (AP)

THE JERUSALEM POST

Your window on ISRAEL

Help for those who can't speak but have lots to say

By JUDY SIEGEL-TZKOVICH

Want to know what it's like to be unable to speak? Go to a party and don't open your mouth, suggest two US speech experts, C. Musselwhite and K. St. Louis, in a book published a decade ago. "Play mute. Use your hands if you wish, but don't use paper and pencil; [which] are not always handy for a mute person."

Here is what you will find: people talking — talking behind, beside, around, over, under, through and even for you. But never with you. You are ignored, until finally you feel like a piece of furniture.

There are thousands of Israelis who cannot talk — elderly people stricken by degenerative diseases, head injuries or a stroke, children born with cerebral palsy (CP), delayed development, autism, mental retardation, apraxia or Down syndrome. But they all want to communicate.

"Just because I can't speak they think I have nothing to say," a nine-year-old Israeli girl with CP told her mother recently using sign language.

Modern, digital technology is proving a boon for such people, as it has for other disabled. During the last decade, increasingly sophisticated devices have been developed to enable the mute to communicate.

Probably the most famous example is superstar cosmologist, mathematician and physicist Stephen Hawking. He lost his speech to Lou Gehrig's disease, but continues to lecture at Cambridge using a custom-designed voice synthesizer.

The most sophisticated of these devices are very expensive, and since mute children often have to periodically graduate from primitive devices to more complex ones, the cost is prohibitive.

It is to solve this problem that Ezer Mizion, the voluntary organi-

zation based in Bnei Brak (10 Rehov Hashomer, tel. 03-579-9256) has opened a lending center for voice, output communication aids (VOCA).

The project — "like a life's work" — was initiated by Yonit Hagoel-Karnieli, a speech and language therapist who studied at the country's only speech therapy school, which belongs to Tel Aviv University and is located at Sheba Hospital.

Until 1994 she worked at a Tel Aviv school for CP children.

"We saw many new immigrants from the former Soviet Union arriving at the age of five with absolutely no history of treatment," she recalls. "It was catastrophic, and we had to try, slowly, to repair the damage and make up for lost time."

Then Hagoel-Karnieli was offered a job at Ezer Mizion to help families with speech problems. She quickly realized the need for a lending library for VOCAs.

"I reached this conclusion independently, but I later learned that such a facility exists, but only in Scotland and Canada and nowhere else in Israel."

It took two years for her to organize and receive substantial financial support to an initially hesitant, but now enthusiastic, National Insurance Institute.

The NII funded the purchase of 80% of the 240 VOCA devices, with the rest coming from private contributions, including the Sacka Foundation in France. Since the library opened 18 months ago, 520 families around the country — Jewish and Arab, urbanites and kibbutzniks, from the northern border to Eilat — have applied to borrow a device. There is no charge, except for a nominal insurance fee in case of damage or loss.

More than half of the recipients are children of kindergarten age, while 19% are adults. There are still not enough devices to supply the demand, and there are 80 peo-

ple on the waiting list.

The patient's family can borrow the device, on recommendation of a speech and language clinician, for three to six months. That gives them enough time to see what type of device suits them.

"There are cases of children who have been diagnosed by a speech therapist and a device recommended to them, but then they bought one and were unable to cope."

"With the lending library, the families don't have to waste hundreds or even thousands of dollars," says Hagoel-Karnieli.

Although in many cases the child progresses fast enough from one loaned device to another in less than six months, others remain at the same level and have to purchase a VOCA, with help from the authorities. In rare cases, she adds, patients' abilities deteriorate due to neurologically degenerative diseases, and they have to downgrade the level of the device they use.

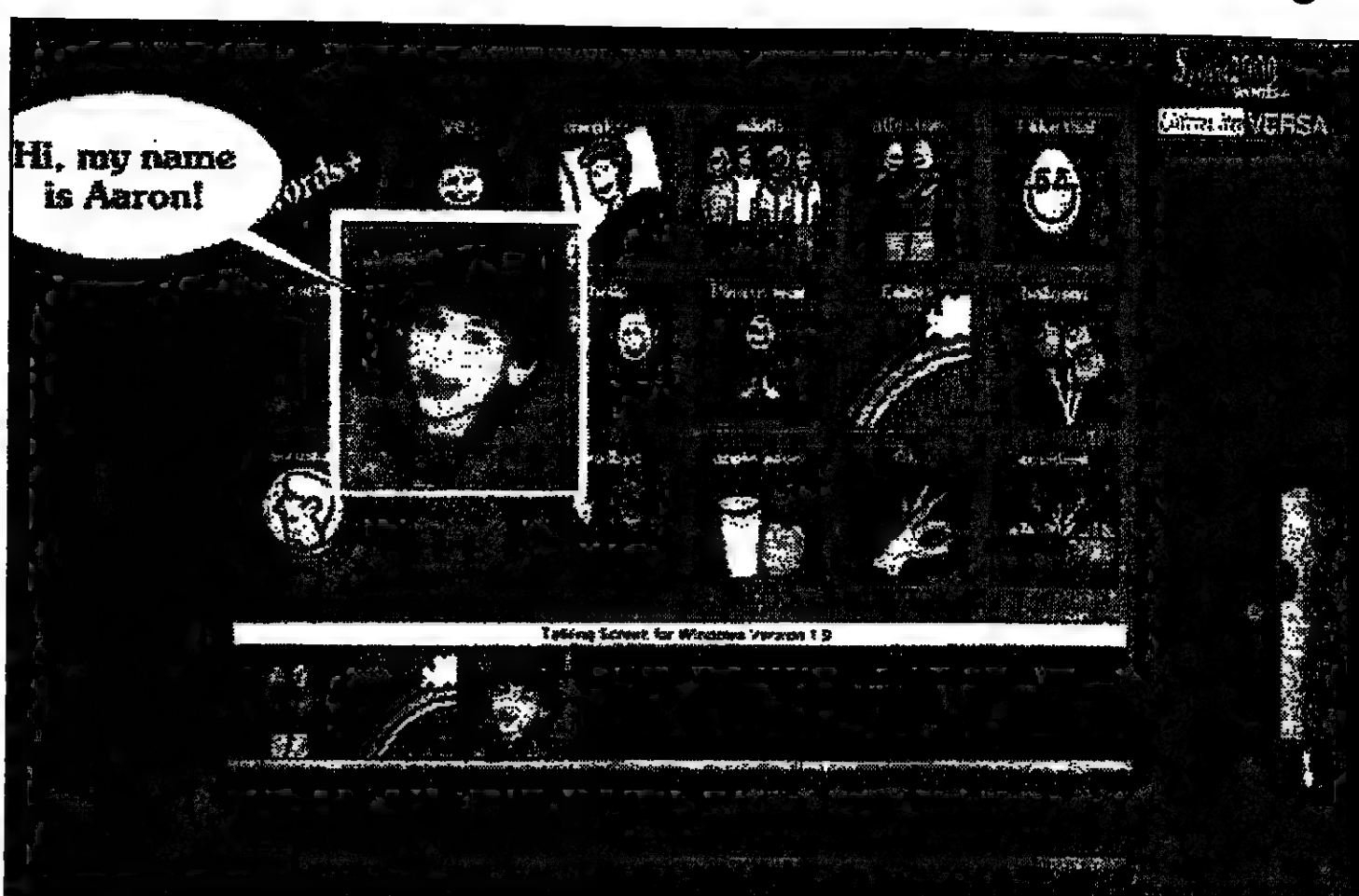
Not every mute person needs a digital device, Hagoel-Karnieli continues. Some use sign language, communication boards showing pictures, symbols and/or words and letters of the alphabet.

Judy Seligman-Wine is an Israeli pioneer in the use of Blissymbols for the mute — the system of graphic symbols through which one can communicate with another person. She works at the Mish'ol Center at Hadassah-University Hospital on Jerusalem's Mt. Scopus.

But others need devices specifically dedicated to spoken output, including computerized devices.

The simplest VOCA available from the lending library is called Big Mac. Costing \$100, it looks like a giant computer mouse shaped like a circle. The user presses it to express one message at a time: the therapist, or a parent, can record the message, such as "I want Mommy."

Hagoel-Karnieli says she can never forget the joyous smile on



VOCA equipment is being lent out by the Ezer Mizion organization in Bnei Brak: "There's nothing quite as exciting as seeing a young mute child communicate for the first time."

the face of a mute child who — for the first time — is able to call his or her mother.

"Toddlers who can't speak usually have receptive language — they understand what others are telling them. But they don't have expressive language, in which they voice their needs and will. This gap is filled by alternative and augmentative communication, from sign language to VOCAs."

A more expensive device, at \$600, is the Chatbox, with 16 dif-

ferent recorded messages that can be spoken by pressing buttons. The \$700 Message Mate has 20 keys for messages, is unbreakable and can be worn on a belt.

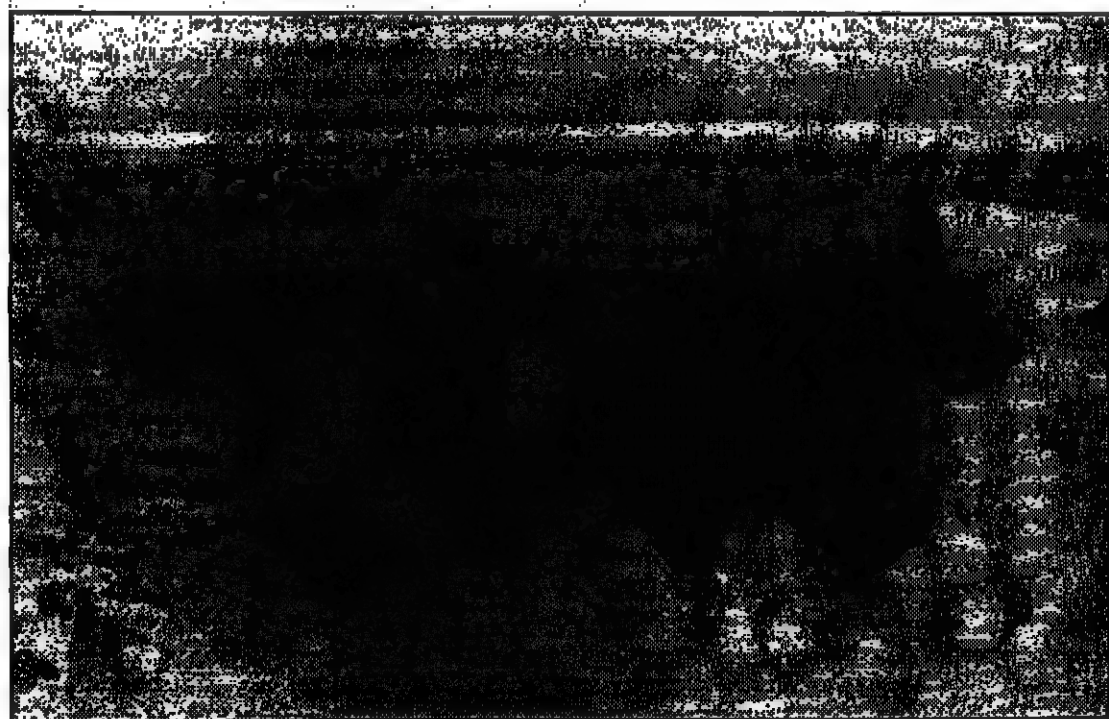
The most expensive type at the Ezer Mizion library, with 32 spaces for messages and the possibility of entering 32 different levels, for a total of 1,604 different messages, costs \$5,000 and weighs only 1.5 kilos. Eventually, laptop computers with a special voice card and a symbols system on screen will

replace some of the more primitive pieces of equipment.

Hagoel-Karnieli says that beyond these digital devices are those that produce synthetic speech, phonetic unit by phonetic unit. "But these are imported and have not yet been produced for Hebrew. Once these are available," she says, "people will be able to say any word they want by pressing buttons to produce artificial speech, in a male or female voice as needed."

"Adults who lose their ability to speak from a stroke, Lou Gehrig's disease or multiple sclerosis can, with these devices, communicate again — ordering food in a restaurant or telling a taxi driver where they want to go. It empowers them and this is exciting."

"But there's nothing quite as exciting as seeing a young mute child communicate for the first time and tell his parent and caregiver that he loves them and wants a hug."



Closeness during the first days and weeks of life appears to have great social value. (Yonit Stager)

Co-bedding — more pros than cons

By HILARY WALDMAN

Most parents of newborns would be aghast if two babies were made to share a bed in the hospital. But now some parents of premature twins are shaking up hospital administrators with a request that the infants be allowed sleep literally side by side.

Though wary when presented with such a request for the first time, Hartford's St. Francis Hospital and Medical Center agreed to give it a try: The twins, a boy and a girl, snuggled together for the rest of their stay in the neonatal intensive care unit. The children, now thriving toddlers, did so well that the nurses agreed to allow more sets of twins to double up.

But several questions remained. Does co-bedding, as it's called, help premature babies get healthy faster? Or, as infectious disease experts fear, is it a dangerous practice that threatens to make one or both babies sicker?

After studying 12 sets of twins who have bunked together in the last 18 months at St. Francis, researchers have a preliminary answer to both questions.

There was no difference in complications and the course of recovery between twins who bunked together and those who did not. Twins from both groups were ready to go home about the same time, and co-bedded twins had no more infections than those who slept alone.

"We know that an individual twin who was co-bedded does not look any different from one who was not," said Diane Longobucco, a clinical nurse specialist at St.

Francis.

But don't try telling that to Leanne Gombatz of Farmington. Gombatz's twins, Megan and Rachel, were born 10 weeks early a year ago. The girls were placed in the same bassinet when they were 10 days old.

Almost from the beginning, Megan, the bigger twin did well, but two-kilo Rachel continued to forget to breathe, a common problem in premature babies.

After about four weeks in the intensive care unit, Megan was getting ready to go home. But doctors said Rachel would have to stay in the hospital until she was able to breathe continuously for a week.

For the next week, with Megan at her side, Rachel breathed. The girls went home together after five weeks in the hospital.

"I think if they had been apart, Rachel would not have gone home as soon as she did."

Diane Steward of Enfield says her twins, born in December, were healthy from the start. But she too is certain that closeness during their first days of life was beneficial.

"They did better while they were together, they had each other to keep warm," said Steward, whose boys Mark and Matthew are identical twins. "They snuggled together, they put their arms around each other."

Such parental testimonials are, of course, not scientific. Because there have been no controlled, multisite studies that might give a definitive answer, hospitals are relying on small studies like that at St. Francis for some preliminary guidance.

St. Francis researchers looked at 12 sets of premature twins who

were placed in the same bassinet. Nurses kept logs of each baby's vital signs, including heart rate, respiratory rate, temperature fluctuations and breathing lapses, called apnea. They then compared the vital signs with the records of 12 sets of twins of comparable age and weight who had been in the intensive care unit in the past and had slept separately.

The researchers also looked at whether the co-bedded babies spent less time in the hospital than did babies who slept separately (no), and the differences in infections among co-bedded and separately sleeping babies (none).

But Longobucco cautioned that the danger of such a small study is that there could be a difference that nobody notices.

Although the preliminary findings were a bit disappointing, the researchers said they have value, since co-bedding appears to do no harm, and the study will now continue for another year.

Even if co-bedding has no medical value, it appears to have great social worth in terms of making parents feel more comfortable and allowing nurses to feel like they're helping babies without poking or prodding them, Longobucco said.

Gombatz reports that when her twins Megan and Rachel "went into the bassinet together, they always found one another, one of their arms would wrap around the other, they would suck each other's noses, wrap legs," she said. "It was such a comfort to me when I had to go home to know they had each other."

(The Hartford Courant)

Don't ignore early symptoms of stroke

Health Scan



By Post Health Reporter

Many people who experience a worrisome but fleeting symptom will get scared but then shrug it off when it passes. This can be deadly, says Prof. Raphael Walden, director of the surgery branch and the vascular unit at Sheba Hospital in Tel Hashomer. Momentary paralysis, changes in feeling in the limbs, visual or speech disturbances or similar symptoms — on one side of the body — can be an early warning sign of a cerebro-vascular accident (CVA) or stroke, as it is commonly known.

Walden notes that these symptoms can come a week or even a year before the actual stroke, but disregarding them can have serious consequences.

"One's heart breaks over patients who got such a warning sign and paid no attention, only to suffer a stroke and become disabled," he says. This generally occurs after age 50: before that, risk of CVA is very low.

The good news is that in many cases the stroke can be prevented and the constriction of the carotid artery — which passes from the heart through to the brain — can be

expanded.

Sheba, and all other hospitals, offer anyone who has suffered such symptoms a painless, non-invasive duplex ultrasound scan of the carotid arteries. Their condition appears on a computer screen in color, and narrowing of the vessels can be easily diagnosed. Treatment can be either with medications or a surgical procedure called endarterectomy.

The problem usually involves the carotid artery on one side, but sometimes it's on both sides of the neck. The success rate of this operation, much like balloon angioplasty in the heart, is 95%, Walden notes.

Atherosclerosis, the hardening and clogging of blood vessels, is a systemic disease that can affect the whole body, including the heart, brain and legs, but it can appear only in the carotid arteries, he continued. "Fortunately, the narrowing of this vital artery appears only during the first one or two centimeters, so we can easily get to it and widen it."

THE LOSS OF BABY FAT

The sooner children lose their baby fat and reach the leanest point of their growing years, the more likely they are to become obese, concludes a study conducted at Children's Hospital Medical Center in Cincinnati.

This factor is relevant whether or not the child's parents are overweight, an element already known to be a strong indicator of a child's future size.

Writing in the March issue of



Doctors now have more clues as to which child will grow up to fight the battle of the bulge.

Pediatrics, Dr. Robert Whitaker and his colleagues suggest that something biologically important may happen to children around the age of six.

His team found that children who lose their baby fat and reach their thinnest point of childhood before age five are more than twice as likely to be obese adults as children who reach the thinnest point after that age.

All children grow leaner after the first year of life until age five or six, when they again gain weight. The age of greatest leanness is called "adiposity rebound."

"We don't know for sure, but it would be reasonable to expect that it's a critical developmental period, just as it is for language development or the capacity for listening to music or any of a number of things," said Whitaker.

Mutant mice may hold the secret of regrowing limbs

By MAGGIE FOX

When Ellen Heber-Katz started a recent experiment on multiple sclerosis, she bought several dozen specially bred mice for her work. She never dreamed they would open up the possibility that injured people might regrow lost limbs.

It started with standard laboratory housekeeping.

"I asked an associate to ear punch, to number, the animals," she said. This involves punching a little hole in the ears of the mice. But three weeks later when she checked the mice, there were no holes.

"I came down and said, 'What did you do?'" Heber-Katz told reporters recently.

The associate shook her head and helped Heber-Katz punch more holes in the ears of the mice. Again a few weeks later, they checked the mice, and the holes had nearly healed. It wasn't just ordinary healing, but one in which "you could not find where the wound had been," said the immunologist.

Suddenly, Heber-Katz knew she was onto something. She consulted other scientists and realized the mice were not experiencing normal healing, which involves scarring, but tissue regeneration. It looked just like what happens in amphibians such as frogs, which can grow back lost limbs.

Heber-Katz presented her findings for the first time to the American Association for the Advancement of Science's annual meeting in Philadelphia. She is not sure how she will translate her findings into actual therapy, but she and colleagues at the Philadelphia-based Wistar Institute, a private research facility funded in part by the National Cancer Institute, are trying to do just that.

There seems to have been an evolutionary trade-off in mammals like mice and humans. Their bodies defend against tumors, but the same process may prevent the ability to regenerate limbs, Heber-Katz said. She hopes to find a way to turn it back on.

One trick will be to turn it on

without causing tumor growth. In normal scarring, the body builds up a protein matrix in between the layers of skin. In the mice, this matrix was being broken down. Genetic tests have pointed to seven possible genes — one of which might also be involved in embryonic wound healing.

Doctors know unborn babies in early development can be operated on in the womb and no scars will show when they are born, but this regenerative ability is turned off after birth.

Heber-Katz thinks immune response is somehow involved. "One of the things that is missing in amphibians is a complex immune system," she said.

The mice she was using are specially inbred to have auto-immune responses — their immune systems turn on themselves, mimicking the effects of diseases such as lupus and MS.

Two different versions of these mice showed the same effects, so she is not sure how much is due to the immune cells, and how much to other genetic mutations. She

could not say why no one had discovered the ear healing before, since ear punching is a common practice with laboratory rodents.

T-cells, immune cells that fight invaders and kill abnormal cells like those seen in tumors, seem to be involved. The mice that heal are missing some types of T-cells.

"But you can't just eliminate T-cells. You have to have the right mixture of genes," Heber-Katz said. She suggested that a mixture of gene and immune therapy could be used to stimulate the process.

First she has to see just what is going on in the mice. She has not gone so far as to cut off a whole ear or limb to see if it comes back, but she did snip off a short bit of tail — about a centimeter. About 75 percent grew back.

"The regrown tail looks normal, but we have not sat down and done a study," she said. Chopping off longer pieces of tail did not work so well. The mice started bleeding too heavily and the tissue had to be cauterized.

"It didn't grow back," Heber-Katz said. (Reuters)

NCAA

Continued from Page 16

FRIDAY'S GAMES

MIDWEST
Valparaiso 70, Mississippi 69
Bryce Drew, the son of Valparaiso's coach, made a leaping 3-pointer at the buzzer to give the Crusaders (22-9) their first NCAA tournament victory.

"It truly was a miracle shot," coach Homer Drew said.
After Mississippi's Ansu Sesay missed two free throws with 4.3 seconds left, Valparaiso had to go almost the length of the floor for the winning basket.

With 2.5 seconds remaining, Valparaiso's Jamie Sykes threw a long pass from the baseline past midcourt to Bill Jenkins, who sent a touch pass to Drew, who missed a 3-pointer just seven seconds earlier.

Western Michigan 75, Clemson 72
Rashod Johnson made eight 3-pointers, converting one into a go-ahead four-point play with 1:31 left, as Western Michigan (21-7) blew a big lead before regrouping. Johnson finished with 32 points for the Broncos, while Harold Jamison scored 14 points for Clemson (18-14).

Stanford 67, College of Charleston 57
Mark Madsen had 16 points and 17 rebounds, and Ryan Mendez made two big 3-pointers to lead the Cardinal (27-4).

Purdue 95, Delaware 56
Mike Robinson scored 19 points and Purdue raced to an 18-0 lead in the first 4½ minutes to rout Delaware.

Detroit 66, St. John's 64
Derrick Hayes scored 27 points as Detroit (25-5) won its first NCAA tournament game since 1977 when Dick Vitale was the Titans' coach. Tyrone Grant scored 14 points for St. John's (22-10), which was making its first NCAA appearance in five years.

Rhode Island 97, Murray State 74
Antonio Reynolds-Dean had 16 points, seven rebounds and four blocks as Rhode Island routed Murray State.

Florida State 96, TCU 87
Florida State, the lowest-seeded at-large team in the tournament, beat high-scoring Texas Christian at its own game. Corey Louis and Randall Jackson each scored 20 points for the Seminoles (18-13), who lost six of their last seven regular-season games. Lee Nailon had 32 points and eight rebounds for TCU (27-6).

Kansas 110, Wake Forest 81
The Jayhawks, who were the first seed in the tournament, won their first NCAA game since 1994, getting 20 points from Louis Bullock in a victory over Davidson.

Michigan 80, Davidson 61
The Wolverines won their first NCAA tournament game since 1994, getting 20 points from Louis Bullock in a victory over Davidson.

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The Jayhawks, who were the first seed in the tournament, won their first NCAA game since 1994, getting 20 points from Louis Bullock in a victory over Davidson.

first half as Kansas (35-3) rolled over Prairie View (13-17), the only team in this year's tournament with a losing record. Kansas' other All-American, Raef LaFrentz, had 20 points and 15 rebounds before sitting out the last eight minutes.

SOUTH
Syracuse 63, Iowa 61
Marius Janulis hit a 3-pointer from the top of the key with 1.2 seconds left to lift the Orangemen (25-9). John McDermott's 3-pointer gave Iowa the lead with 24 seconds remaining. Todd Burgan scored 16 points for Syracuse, while Kashif Hameed had 17 points for Iowa (27-6).

New Mexico 79, Butler 62
Senior center Ben Baum, who entered the game with only seven career 3-pointers, made three long-range shots and scored a season-high 14 points to lead New Mexico (24-7). Matthew Graves scored 17 points for Butler (22-11).

Oklahoma State 74, George Washington 59
Adrian Peterson scored 23 points, including six points during a decisive 10-0 run that carried Oklahoma State (22-6) over George Washington (24-9). Desmond Mason had 13 points and 13 rebounds for the Cowboys. Shawnta Rogers, a 5-foot-4 guard, scored 19 points for GW.

Duke 99, Radford 63
Roshown McLeod scored 23 points and Duke's man-to-man defense, smothered Radford. McLeod scored 19 points in the first half — matching Radford's total — as Duke (30-13) pulled away to a 51-19 lead. Leslie Ballard scored 16 points for Radford (20-10).

Kentucky 82, South Carolina 67
Nazir Mohammed's 18 points gave Kentucky its first NCAA tournament victory under coach Tubby Smith. Kentucky (30-4) dominated the game and advanced to play St. Louis in today's second round. Roderick Blackner scored 25 points for South Carolina State (22-8).

Massachusetts 46, Saint Louis 31
Larry Hughes scored 18 points, including his team's final nine, to lead the Billikens (22-10) over the Minutemen (21-11). Lari Ketner, UMass' leading scorer, was held to eight points.

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Kansas 110, Wake Forest 81
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Michigan 80, Davidson 61
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nine after that.
UCLA 65, Miami 62
J.R. Henderson and Toby Bailey hit four straight free throws in the final 25.2 seconds to help UCLA (23-8) defeat Miami (18-10), which was making its first NCAA tournament appearance in 38 years.

Henderson finished with 26 points and Bailey had 21 for the Bruins.

THURSDAY'S GAMES

EAST
North Carolina 88, Navy 52
At Hartford, Connecticut, the top-ranked Tar Heels (31-3) broke open the game with a 19-2 second-half run against the Midshipmen (19-11).

Richmond 62, South Carolina 61
Jarrod Stevenson scored 24 points for Richmond, which sent South Carolina to its second straight embarrassing opening-round loss. Last season, the Gamecocks lost as a No. 2 seed to 15th-seeded Coppin State.

UNC Charlotte 77, Illinois 62
DeMarco Johnson had 30 points and 10 rebounds and Sean Colson added 18 points and 13 assists for Charlotte (20-10), which gets its first-ever shot at North Carolina on Sunday.

Princeton 69, UNLV 57
Princeton closed the first half with a 20-2 run and went on to beat UNLV to extend the nation's longest winning streak to 20 games.

Michigan St. 83, E. Michigan 71
Mateen Cleaves, playing with foul problems, scored 20 points as Michigan State beat Eastern Michigan.

Washington 69, Xavier 68
At Washington, D.C., Deon Lutton's 17-foot jumper with 11.2 seconds to play gave the Huskies their first NCAA victory since 1984.

Indiana 94, Oklahoma State 87 (OT)
After blowing a 19-point, second-half lead, Indiana scored the first six points in overtime to win its first NCAA tournament game in four years.

The win ended a string of three straight first-round losses for Indiana and coach Bob Knight, who paid a \$10,000 fine in order to coach the game. He had to pay the fine or take a one-game suspension as punishment for criticizing a referee after a Big Ten game last month.

UConn 93, Fairfield Dickinson 85
Richard Hamilton and Khalid El-Amin each scored 30 points as Connecticut held off Fairfield Dickinson, which got a sensational 43-point performance from

Elijah Allen.
Fairleigh Dickinson (23-7), a decisive underdog, trailed by only two points with 4:42 left before the Huskies (30-4) cemented the victory with a 6-0 run.

WEST
Cincinnati 65, N. Arizona 62
At Boise, Idaho, Ron Baker was 4-for-14 from the field before sinking his jumper as the Bearcats (27-5) avoided becoming only the fourth No. 2 seed to lose to a No. 15 seed.

West Virginia 82, Temple 52
The 10th-seeded Mountaineers (23-8) started with a 9-0 run and Temple never got close in a matchup of teams that were regular Atlantic 10 rivals before West Virginia moved to the Big East.

Utah 85, San Francisco 68
Utah's towering front line overpowered San Francisco, which returned to the tournament 16 years after its basketball program was dropped in disgrace.

Michael Doleac scored 27 points, including 15-of-17 from the foul line, for Utah (26-3). Arkansas 74, Nebraska 65
Nebraska fumbled away a 10-point second-half lead and lost to Arkansas in a sloppy game that featured 43 turnovers.

Illinois 64, South Alabama 51
At Sacramento, California, the Fighting Illini had 12 steals and forced 20 turnovers with a tenacious defense.

Kevin Turner scored 15 points and Matt Heidman added 15 for Illinois (23-9). Toby Madison led South Alabama (21-7) with 19 points.

Maryland 82, Utah St. 68
Rodney Elliott had 21 points and 11 rebounds and Obinna Ekezie added 17 points as Maryland beat Utah State.

Tennessee 81 (OT), Dan Muller hit a layup with 1.8 seconds left in overtime to give Illinois State the victory over Tennessee. Rico Hill led Illinois State (25-5) with 22 points and LeRoy Watkins added 18.

Tennessee (20-9), which hasn't won an NCAA game in 15 years, was paced by Brandon Wharton's 23 points.

Arizona 99, Nicholls St. 60
Defending national champion Arizona took a 25-point halftime lead and coasted to a victory over Nicholls State.

Miles Simon scored 24 points and Mike Bibby had 19 for the Wildcats (28-4), who led by as many as 42 points late in the game. Russell McCutcheon had 21 points for Nicholls State (19-10).

Hornets beat Magic to win 10th straight

ORLANDO (AP) — The Charlotte Hornets won a Team record 10th straight game Friday night, getting 24 points from Glen Rice in a 100-82 rout of the Orlando Magic.

Matt Geiger added 19 points and six rebounds for the Hornets, who broke the game open with a 9-0 run early in the fourth quarter that made the score 88-69. Charlotte wasn't threatened the rest of the way.

Anthony Mason had 12 points and a game-high 15 rebounds for Charlotte.

Pacers 96, Bucks 76
Rik Smits had 20 points and 11 rebounds and lost Indiana held Milwaukee to 30 points in the second half.

Dale Davis added 16 points and Reggie Miller had 15 for the Pacers, who connected on 58 percent of their shots. Indiana, which has won six of its last eight games, improved its home record to 24-6 — fourth-best in the NBA.

Clippers 152, Raptors 120
Host Los Angeles had the highest scoring game in franchise history and the largest point total of the NBA season.

Lamond Murray scored 25 points, Rodney Rogers added 24 and Derrick Martin had 21 to help Los Angeles win for only the fifth time in 29 games and shatter their previous club record of 146 points set twice before.

The previous highest point total

this season was 140 by Phoenix in a quadruple overtime victory at Portland on Nov. 14.

Pistons 96, Celtics 92
Jerry Stackhouse hit three free throws and pulled down a rebound in the final minute as Detroit overcame an 11-point deficit late in the third quarter to win on the road.

76ers 107, Hawks 86
Allen Iverson scored a season-high 34 points and Philadelphia surpassed last season's victory total with a home win that snapped Atlanta's four-game winning streak.

The 76ers hadn't beaten the Hawks since April 6, 1996, losing seven straight. With their 23rd win

of the season, the Sixers assured themselves of bettering last year's 22-60 record.

Suns 101, Warriors 77
Cliff Robinson scored eight of his 22 points during a decisive third-quarter run as Phoenix romped to a home win.

Antonio McDyess scored 20 points, Jason Kidd and Danny Manning had 15 each and Kevin Johnson finished with 10 for the Suns, who have won three straight games and four of their last five.

Jazz 110, Grizzlies 101
Karl Malone scored 30 points and John Stockton added 16 to surpass 15,000 points for his career as Utah notched a home win.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division				
	W	L	Pct.	GB
Miami	44	20	.688	—
New York	35	27	.565	8
New Jersey	33	31	.516	11
Washington	33	31	.516	11
Orlando	32	31	.508	12
Boston	29	34	.460	14
Philadelphia	23	39	.371	20
Central Division				
Chicago	46	17	.730	—
Indiana	44	19	.698	2
Charlotte	40	23	.635	6
Atlanta	37	25	.597	8
Cleveland	33	30	.524	13
Milwaukee	29	33	.468	16
Detroit	29	34	.460	17
Toronto	19	48	.283	32

Thursday's results: Miami 97, Cleveland 74; San Antonio 97, Sacramento 84; Houston 115, New Jersey 104; Dallas 104, Chicago 97 (OT) Denver 98, Vancouver 93; Portland 95, Minnesota 92; L.A. Lakers 108, L.A. Clippers 85

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Midwest Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Utah	46	16	.742	—
San Antonio	43	20	.683	3½
Minnesota	33	30	.524	13½
Houston	32	31	.508	14½
Vancouver	15	47	.242	31
Dallas	14	49	.222	32½
Denver	6	58	.094	41
Pacific Division	W	L	Pct.	GB
Seattle	47	15	.758	—
L.A. Lakers	44	18	.710	3
Phoenix	42	21	.667	5½
Portland	26	54	.325	28
Sacramento	26	39	.400	28½
Golden State	14	49	.222	33½
L.A. Clippers	13	49	.210	34

clashed playoff berth.

Oilers blank Panthers behind Joseph

MIAMI (AP) — Doug Weight scored his 23rd goal and Tony Hrkac added three assists as Edmonton blanked Florida 4-0 Friday. Curtis Joseph stopped 23 shots for his second consecutive shutout, his sixth of the season and 17th of his career.

The loss extends the Panthers' franchise-record losing streak to eight and matches its longest winless streak at 10 (0-9-1). Their 34th loss is a franchise high.

Ryan Smyth and Boris Mironov scored power-play goals for the Oilers, with Mironov's coming during a two-man advantage.

Joseph, 5-11 in his last six games, is 5-0 against Florida. It's the first time the Panthers were blanked at home this season. Joseph had 20 saves in a 2-0 vic-

tory over Tampa on Wednesday. Stars 6, Mighty Ducks 3
Joe Newenbury scored four

goals as the injury-depleted visiting Stars stopped a five-game winless streak.

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
New Jersey	40	16	9	89	186	127
Philadelphia	33	20	10	76	183	146
Washington	29	24	11	69	176	147
N.Y. Rangers	28	17	15	67	161	178
N.Y. Islanders	22	33	9	53	145	178
Florida	18	34	12	48	151	191
Tampa Bay	13	42	9	35	121	208
Northeast Division	W	L	T	Pts	GF	GA
Pittsburgh	31	18	14	80	186	152
Montreal	31	25	8	70	186	162
Boston	27	24	13	67	165	154
Buffalo	26	22	15	67	159	149
Ottawa	26	28	10	62	148	159
Carolina	25	31	7	57	153	174

Thursday's results: Buffalo 3, San Jose 1; Calgary 5, Boston 2; New Jersey 2, Carolina 2; Washington 2, N.Y. Islanders 1; Montreal 4, N.Y. Rangers 1; Philadelphia 3, Vancouver 2; Detroit 3, Chicago 0; Phoenix 5, Dallas 4; Toronto 2, Los Angeles 1.

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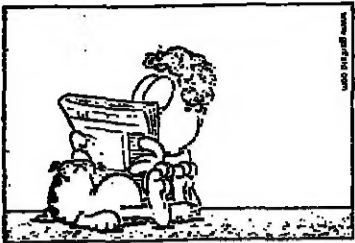
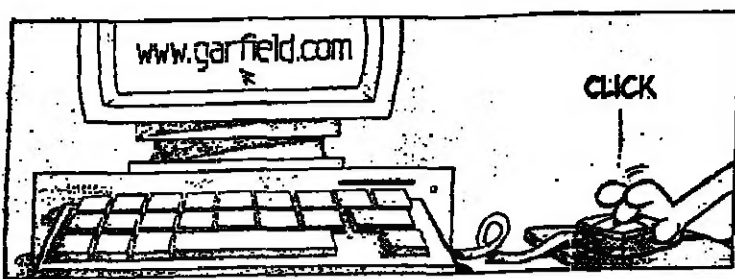
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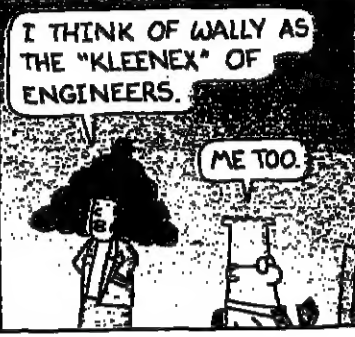
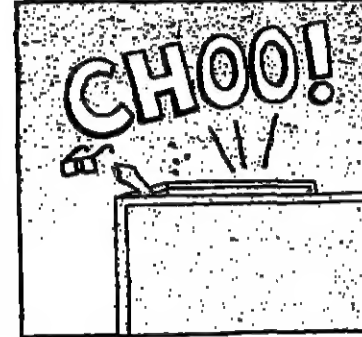
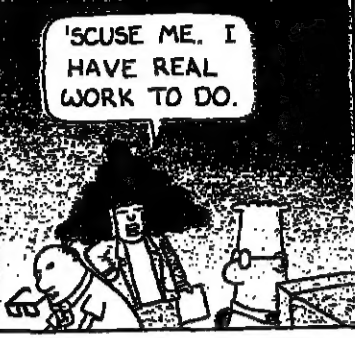
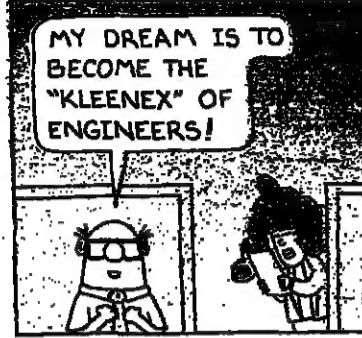
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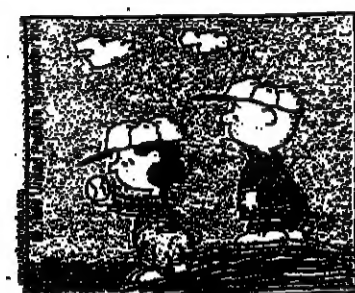
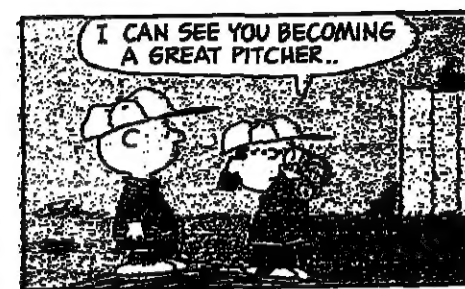
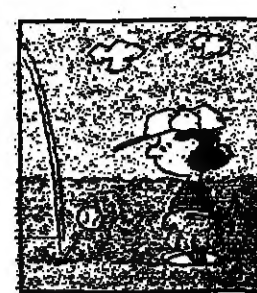
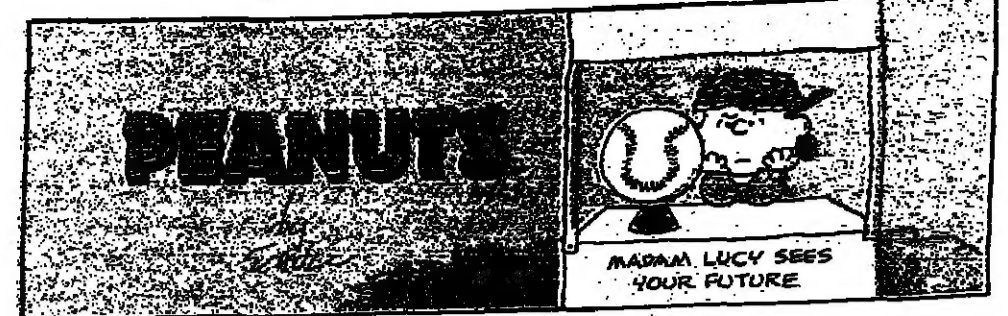


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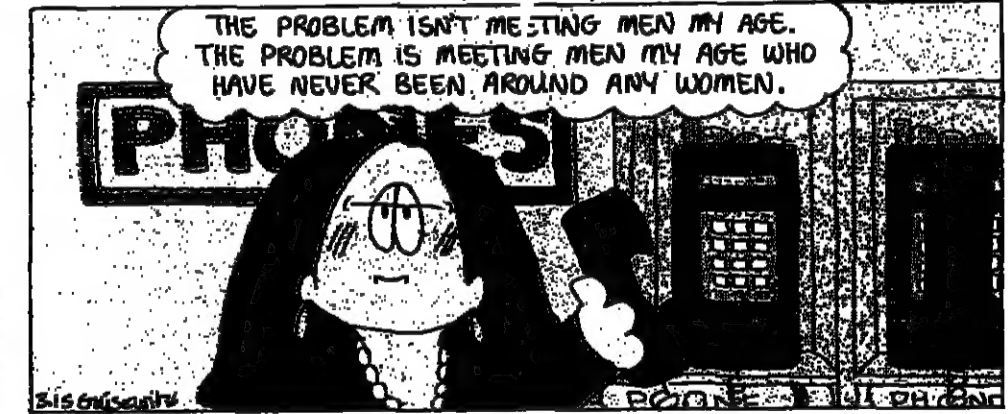
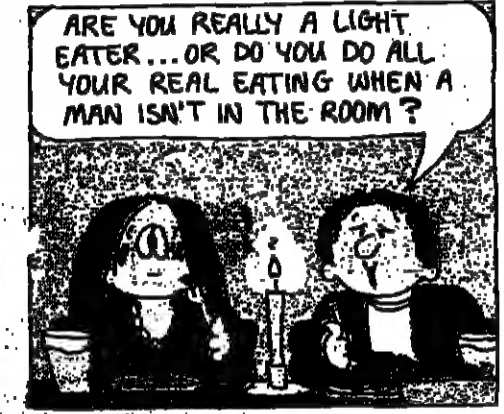
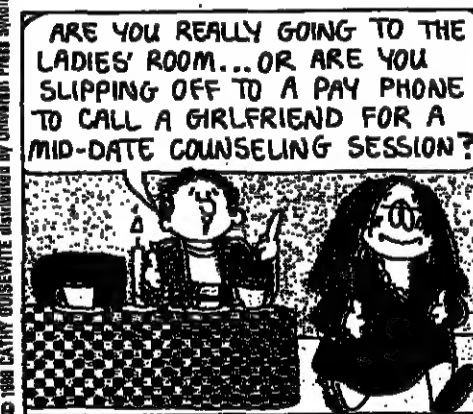
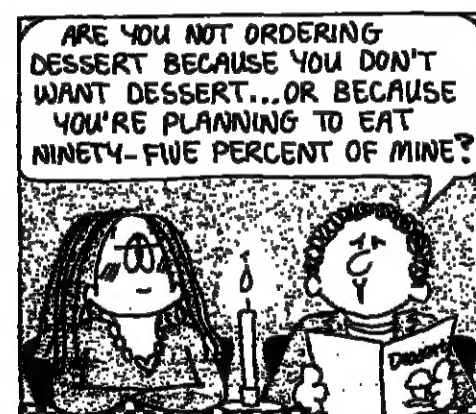
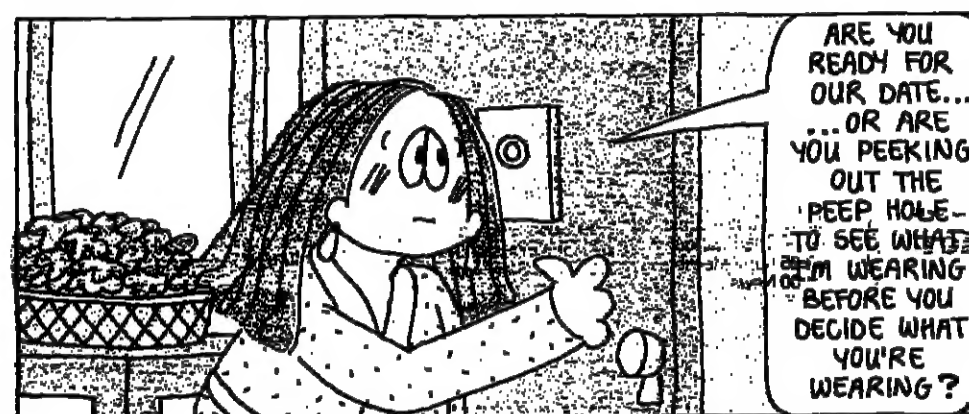


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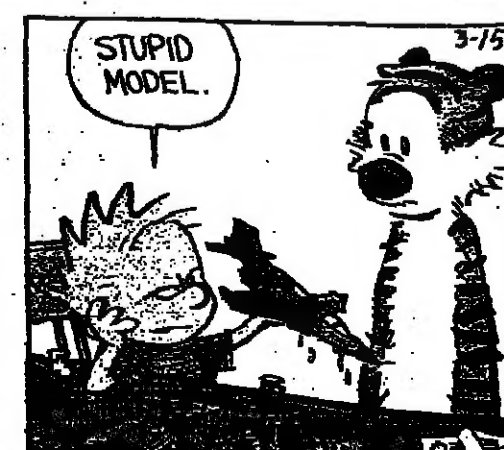
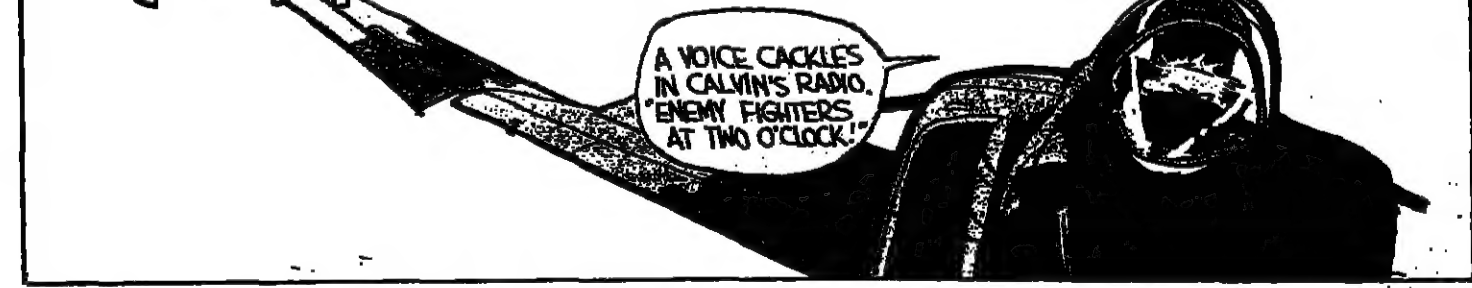
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CATHY



calvin and Hobbes



Inside

Hornets' win streak at 10

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Sports Editors
Joe Hoffman & Ori Lewis

Agassi rocked in quarters; Hingis stops Williams

INDIAN WELLS (AP) — Jan-Michael Gambill, ranked 126th in the world and a wild-card entry into the Newsweek Champions Cup, ended Andre Agassi's 13-match winning streak with a 7-6 (8-6), 3-6, 6-3 victory Saturday.

In the Evert Cup Martina Hingis downed Venus Williams 6-0, 7-6 (9-7) to make the finals.

Other quarterfinal winners included Britain's Greg Rusedski, who ripped a men's tour-record 146 mph serve in a 2-6, 7-6 (9-7), 6-4 victory over Sweden's Thomas Enqvist; Thomas Muster, who beat Andrei Medvedev 5-7, 6-3, 6-4.

And Marcelo Rios, who knocked off Petr Korda 6-4, 6-2.

If Korda had won the tournament, he would have ended Pete Sampras' 100-week run at the top of the world rankings.

In the women's match, Hingis avenged a loss to Williams at Sydney earlier this year.

Windies vs. England

BRIDGETOWN (Reuters) — West Indies were all out for 262, 141 runs behind England's first innings total of 403 on the third day of the fifth Test at Kensington Oval yesterday.

Top guns clinch comfortable National League soccer wins

By DEREK FATTAL and ORI LEWIS

The cream of the league continued to top the opposition as all four leading teams registered victories in Round 22 of National League soccer play over the weekend.

Hapoel Tel Aviv provided evidence that their nerve is not about to crack as the title campaign nears its final phase, with a handy 2-0 away win over Maccabi Petah Tikva yesterday. Second-placed Beitar Jerusalem gave one of their most electric performances this season overturning an early one-goal deficit into an emphatic 4-2 victory over Hapoel Petah Tikva. Maccabi Tel Aviv moved up to ninth position with a 2-0 win over Hapoel Ashdod, to finally relieve the relegation worries of coach Avraham Grant.

Hapoel Beersheba looked a pale imitation of the side that fought so valiantly last week in the State Cup, as they flunked to a 2-0 loss at the hands of Hapoel Haifa and so continue to prop up the division.

Alon Mizrahi led Maccabi Haifa to a comfortable 3-0 romp against his former club Bnei Yehuda, with a display that suggests he could be a key player in Israel's coming mid-week clash against Romania.

In the Second Division, leaders Zefirum Holon fell to just their second defeat of the season against third-placed Hapoel Ashdod, while success for second-placed Maccabi Jaffa looks to have opened up the promotion race again.

Beitar Jerusalem 4
Hapoel Petah Tikva 2

Beitar's second-string goalkeeper, Guy Grif, was unable to master a cunningly curved free kick fired in by Hapoel's Ilan Buaron in the third minute, but Beitar were soon back level pegging when Yossi Abukis sent an appetizing ball goalwards for Nir Sevilla to chase and hit home six minutes later. After surviving another scare from a Buaron free kick, the hosts settled in to their normal non-stop attacking rhythm, driven along in

Overmars opens up Premiership race

Dutch winger gives Gunners 1-0 win over Man Utd; Liverpool, Spurs in 3-3 draw

LONDON (Reuters) — Arsenal, fired by a late goal from Dutch winger Marc Overmars, threw the Premier League title race wide open with a 1-0 win over leaders Manchester United yesterday.

Second-placed Arsenal's victory at Old Trafford cut champions United's lead to six points, with the London club having three games in hand.

Liverpool hung onto third place, nine points off the pace, by seizing a 3-3 draw with an 89th minute equalizer from midfielder Steve McManaman at relegation-threatened Tottenham, 17th in the 20-team league.

Arsenal snatched victory over United with 10 minutes left from a move which began with Martin Keown and was continued by headers from Denis Bergkamp and substitute Nicholas Anelka. His flick-on enabled Overmars to drive the ball under goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel's legs.

United suffered a further setback after the game as tests showed Dane Schmeichel had torn a hamstring, ruling him out of Wednesday's European Cup quarter-final second leg at home to Monaco.

Barnsley, 18th, kept the pressure on Tottenham by winning 4-3 at home to Southampton to go level with the London club on 31 points, and with one game in hand.

Bottom club Crystal Palace had new management duo Italian

Arturo Lombardo and Swede Tomas Brodin in charge for their first match but the team's plight deepened as they crashed 3-1 at Aston Villa.

Bolton beat Sheffield Wednesday 3-2 and are four points behind Barnsley and Tottenham, and four ahead of Palace. Three teams go down at the end of the season.

Liverpool came from behind three times to earn their draw in a compelling clash at Tottenham.

Tottenham led first through a headed goal from German Juergen Klinsmann after 13 minutes, then with a glorious strike from Frenchman David Ginola four minutes after halftime and finally



WINGING IT — Liverpool's Steve McManaman (1) skips past Tottenham Hotspur defenders Ramon Vega and Steve Carr during White Hart Lane match.

when Ramon Vega scored 10 minutes from the finish.

However, McManaman equalized in the 21st minute and fellow England international Paul Ince pulled his side level again with an overhead kick from inside the box after 65 minutes, with McManaman also having the final word.

Barnsley had to battle to hold Southampton at bay in their seven-goal encounter.

Goals by Ashley Ward and Scott

Jones were canceled out for the visitors by Norwegian Egil Olsen and Matt Le Tissier before another

Norway striker, Jan Aage Fjortoft, and Neal Redfern, with a penalty, thrust Barnsley 4-2 in front.

A 71st minute strike from Le Tissier left the home side to endure a anxious final phase.

Palace's joint player-managers Lombardo and Brodin, appointed only on Friday after the recent decision to give Steve Coppell a

new role as director of football, suffered the worst possible start.

Utility player Ian Taylor put Villa in front in the opening minute, and two other first-half strikes from Yugoslav Savo Milosevic, the first from the spot, sealed Palace's fate.

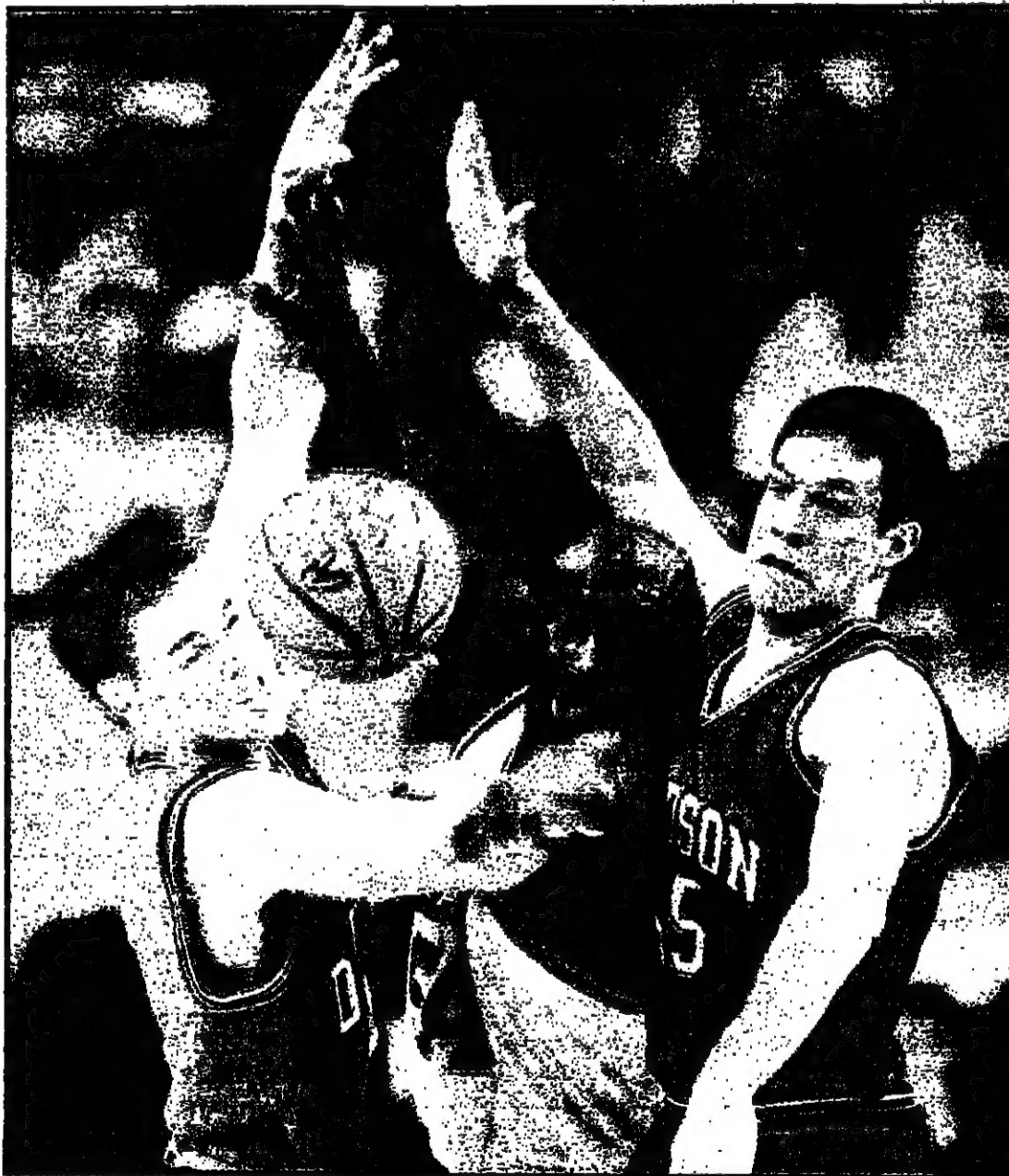
Fourth-placed Chelsea's erratic league form — they thumped Palace 6-2 last Wednesday — continued with a 2-1 defeat at London rivals West Ham, for whom

defender David Unsworth hit a 75th minute winner.

Everton beat Blackburn Rovers 1-0 to leave Rovers equal on points with Chelsea, 12 behind United.

Leeds play at Derby today.

In Scotland, Celtic can move four points clear with a win today over Dundee United. Yesterday, nine-time defending champions Rangers lost 2-1 at Motherwell and Hearts tied Kilmarnock 1-1.



OUTFLANKED — Michigan's Robert Traylor is sandwiched by Davidson defenders in Friday's action. The Wolverines won 80-61. Michigan plays UCLA in second-round action today.

Tar Heels reach Sweet 16 with OT win over Charlotte

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) — This is why North Carolina avoided its neighbor from Charlotte all these years.

The top-ranked and top-seeded Tar Heels needed overtime yesterday to defeat North Carolina-Charlotte 93-83 in the schools' first meeting and advance into the East Regional semifinals.

North Carolina (32-3) outscored UNC 19-9 in overtime after the 49ers tied the score 74-74 in regulation on Diego Guevara's leaping 3-pointer with 2.9 seconds left.

A minor controversy followed the basket when referee Tom Harrington blew his whistle with

1.4 seconds left as North Carolina's Antawn Jamison missed an off-balance shot. The officials met and decided it was an inadvertent stoppage, giving UNCC (20-11) the alternate possession and a final chance.

The eighth-seeded 49ers couldn't get a shot off, and they didn't fare much better in overtime as Shammond Williams scored nine points and the Tar Heels made eight straight free throws in the final 1:37.

Williams led the Tar Heels with 32 points and Jamison, shut down for most of the game, scored six of his 19 points in overtime.

Vince Carter added 24 and capped UNC's 12-0 run in the last two minutes with a reverse dunk, allowing the Tar Heels' fans to relax for the first time.

Demarco Johnson finished with 23 points for UNCC, Sean Colson added 21 and Guevara had 16.

In other action last night, West Virginia edged Cincinnati 75-74 in the West Regional; while in the East Regional, Michigan State beat Princeton 63-56.

North Carolina, which advanced to its 16th regional semifinals in 18 years, will play Michigan State.

See NCAA, Page 13

Premier League	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Manchester United	31	18	6	7	58	23	60
Arsenal	28	15	9	4	47	26	54
Liverpool	30	14	9	7	51	32	51
Chelsea	30	15	3	12	59	35	48
Blackburn	29	13	9	7	49	38	48
Derby	29	13	6	10	40	30	45
Leeds	29	13	5	11	41	38	44
West Ham	29	13	6	10	40	30	45
Leicester	29	10	10	9	35	30	40
Coventry	29	10	10	9	35	30	40
Southampton	30	12	4	14	39	42	40
Aston Villa	31	11	6	14	34	41	39
Sheff Wed	30	10	7	13	45	57	37
Wimbledon	28	9	8	11	30	32	35
Newcastle	28	9	8	11	26	31	35
Everton	30	8	9	13	34	42	33
Tottenham	29	9	7	13	29	47	31
Barnsley	29	9	7	13	29	47	31
Bolton	29	5	12	12	27	47	27
Crystal Palace	29	5	12	12	27	47	27

Aston Villa 3, Crystal Palace 1; Barnsley 4, Southampton 3; Bolton 3, Sheffield Wednesday 2; Everton 1, Blackburn 0; Manchester United 0, Arsenal 1; Newcastle 0, Coventry 0; Tottenham 3, Liverpool 3; West Ham 2, Chelsea 1; Wimbledon 2, Leicester 1.

Division One	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Nottingham Forest	37	22	8	7	63	33	74
Middlesbrough	37	21	9	7	61	36	72
Sunderland	36	20	9	7	67	38	69
Charlton	36	18	8	10	63	46	62
Sheff United	35	16	13	6	54	37	61
Birmingham	35	15	14	6	50	31	59
Wolverhampton	35	16	7	12	45	36	55
Stockport	36	16	6	14	60	54	54
West Brom	36	14	10	12	37	43	52
Bradford	36	12	14	12	38	59	50
Swindon	34	14	7	13	38	58	49
Oxford United	37	13	14	10	51	51	47
Crewe	38	14	5	19	45	54	47
Northwich	38	11	12	15	37	57	45
Walsley	38	10	13	15	43	63	43
Bury	38	11	9	18	42	57	42
Port Vale	38	11	8	19	44	54	41
Peterborough	37	11	8	18	40	51	41
Tranmere	36	10	10	16	37	45	40
Manchester City	38	10	9	19	42	46	39
Reading	37	10	9	18	36	63	39
Stoke	38	8	13	17	34	57	37

Bradford 0, Birmingham 0; Huddersfield 3, Tranmere 1; Northwich 1, West Brom 1; Middlesbrough 3, Bury 0; Oxford United 3, Stoke 1; Port Vale 2, Manchester City 1; Peterborough 0, Huddersfield 0; Queens Park Rangers 1, Swindon 2; Sheffield United 4, Reading 0; Stockport 0, Ipswich 1; Wolverhampton 1, Crewe 0.

Division Two	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Bristol City	37	21	9	7	60	29	72
Walsley	37	20	12	5	54	31	72
Gillingham	35	17	10	8	48	27	61
Northampton	36	16	13	9	44	30	61
Fulham	37	16	9	12	47	34	57
Gillingham	37	16	9	12	45	42	57
Wrexham	36	15	12	9	45	42	57
Bristol Rovers	38	15	8	15	54	57	53
Barnsley	37	13	11	13	45	50	50
Weymouth	38	12	12	14	46	47	48
York	38	12	12	14	46	49	48
Oldham	36	12	13	11	48	41	49
Millwall	36	13	9	14	38	43	48
Chesham	38	11	15	12	34	36	48
Blackpool	37	13	8	16	46	55	47
Preston	37	12	9	16	43	45	45
Wigan	35	12	8	15	49	53	44
Walsley	35	11	10	14	35	41	43
Carlisle	37	11	8	18	49	55	41
Brentford	38	9	14	15	41	59	41
Luton	37	9	13	15	41	52	40
Plymouth	37	9	12	16	45	59	39
Barnley	36	8	12	16	41	49	34
Southend	37	9	8	20	37	64	35

Barnsley 0, Wrexham 1; Bristol City 2, Bristol Rovers 0; Barnley 1, Luton 1; Carlisle 1, Brentford 2; Fulham 1, Millwall 1; Gillingham 1, Chesham 0; Gillingham 3, Walsley 0; Northampton 2, Blackpool 0; Preston 3, York 1; Watford 1, Southend 1; Wigan 1, Oldham 0; Weymouth 5, Plymouth 1.

Division Three	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
North County	36	25	9	4	67	35	84
Barry	36	20	8	8	61	44	68
Barnet	36	18	10	8	54	40	64
Scarborough	38	18	9	11	62	51	63
Macclesfield	38	17	12	9	50	38	63
Lincoln City	37	15	13	9	44	42	58
Colchester	36	16	9	11	60	52	57
Peterborough	38	15	12	11	57	41	57
Northampton	36	14	15	7	55	49	57
Leyton Orient	37	15	10	12	48	35	55
Chesham	38	15	9	14	51	45	54
Exeter	38	13	14	11	56	49	53
Scarborough	37	14	10	13	46	47	52
Harrogate	38	13	11	14	50	42	51
Harrogate	38	12	13	13	50	46	49
Shrewsbury	36	12	11	13	49	47	47
Cambridge United	38	10	16	12	50	49	46
Darlington	37	12	10	15	48	59	46
Guildford	38	8	21	9	45	41	45
Swansea	38	11	8	19	42	55	41
Northwich	38	12	5	21	39	47	41
Hull	38	8	6	24	45	72	30
Brigham	38	5	13	20	29	54	28
Dorchester	38	3	7	28	24	97	16

Barnet 2, Brighton 0; Cambridge United 2, Scarborough 2; Luton 1, Doncaster 1; Chesham 0, North County 1; Colchester 5, Macclesfield 1; Darlington 1, Torquay 1; Exeter 3, Hull 0; Harrogate 1, Swans 2; Lincoln City 2, Rochdale 0; Rotherham 2, Huddersfield 2; Scarborough 2, Leyton Orient 0; Shrewsbury 4, Peterborough 1.

Scottish Premier	GP	W	D	L	GF	GA	Pts
Celtic	27	18	4	5	53	18	58
Hearts	28	17	6	5	62	37	57
Rangers	28	15	9	4	61	32	54
Glasgow	28	9	10	9	40	36	34
St. Johnstone	28	7	12	29	35	34	34
Dundee United	27	7	10	10	32	40	31
Aberdeen	28	7	9	12	32	45	30
Dundee	28	7	9	12	34	55	30
Motherwell	28	4	5	19	47	59	17
Hibernian	28	4	8	16	31	50	20

Dundee 3, Aberdeen 3; Hearts 1, Glasgow 1; Motherwell 2, Rangers 1; St. Johnstone 1, Hibernian 1.

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